Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-94-048 *11 March 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Receives Croatian Ambassador *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Christopher Calls 'Arafat on Draft UN Resolution *[Algiers VOP]* 1
'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Process, U.S. Role *[Paris LE FIGARO 11 Mar]* 1
'Arafat Views Hebron Massacre, U.S. Position *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 8 Mar]* 3
'Arafat Views Role in PLO, Personal Life *[Vienna DER STANDARD 10 Mar]* 5
Qaddumi on UN Resolution, Russian Initiative *[London MBC TV]* 7
PLO Groups Agree To Revive Intifadah Command *[MENA]* 7
Palestinian Leaders Ask 'Arafat To Quit Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Mar]* 8
PFLP-GC Claims Responsibility for SLA Attack *[VOL]* 9
Denies Killing Civilians *[Al-Quds Radio]* 9
Fatah's Zaki: Hawks Ordered To Avenge Massacre *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Mar]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak on Peace Process, Regional Issues *[MENA]* 10
Interior Minister on 'Foreign Quarters' Involvement *[MENA]* 11
Notes 'Serious' Terrorist Scheme *[MENA]* 11
24 Deputies Propose Expelling Israeli Ambassador *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Mar]* 12
Israeli Arab Delegation Arrives After Syria Visit *[MENA]* 12
Students Continue Demonstrations Over Hebron *[AL-'ARABI 7 Mar]* 12
Hundreds Wounded, Detained *[AL-'ARABI 7 Mar]* 12
Paper Urges Israel To 'Determine' 'Position' *[MENA]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Government Bans Use, Manufacturing of Satellite Dishes *[Riyadh Radio]* 14

Yemen

Salih Returns From Working Visit to Egypt *[Sanaa Radio]* 14
Al-Bid Receives Joint Committee, Urges Normalization *[Sanaa Radio]* 14
Foreign Minister on Crisis, Egypt's Mediation *[Cairo International]* 15
Egyptian Mediation Said of 'Considerable Importance'
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Mar] 16

IRAQ

Ramadan Says Kurdistan To Return 'Shortly' *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Talabani Visits Coalition Forces Office in Zakho *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 18
Kurdistan Party Urges Masses To Step Up 'Resistance' *[INA]* 18
BABIL Accuses President Clinton of 'Lying' to Congress *[INA]* 18
UNSCOM Statement Refuting Marshland Charges Analyzed *[AL-THAWRAH 2 Mar]* 19

ISRAEL

Rabin, Peres Express 'Doubts' Over Russian Initiative *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Arrives *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
French Defense Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Accord on Military Technologies Signed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Finance Minister Meets With Hungary's Szabo *['AL HAMISHMAR 11 Mar]* 20
Peres Views al-Asad-Darawshah Meeting, Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Darawshah Delegation Returns From Damascus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Kahana Hay Leader Jailed After Conviction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Indictments Filed Against 3 for Supporting Massacre *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Settlers' Videocassette Recommends Civil Revolt *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
Update on 9 Mar Incidents in Territories *[HA'ARETZ 10 Mar]* 22
10 Mar, Other Incidents Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Teenager Killed; Soldier, 17 Wounded in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Police Arrest Man for Not Handing Over Weapon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Government, PLO Official on Peace Process *[Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA 16 Mar]* 23
Poll: Rabin Public's Choice for Prime Minister *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Mar]* 24

JORDAN

Weekly on Purposes of King's Saudi Pilgrimage *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 10 Mar]* 25
U.S. Blamed for Saudi 'Snub' of King Husayn *[AFP]* 25
King Husayn To Visit Qatar 20 Mar *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Mar]* 26
Government Orders 10 Percent Spending Cut *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Mar]* 26
Saudi Financier Reportedly Funded Theater Bombings *[SHIHAN 12 Mar]* 26
'Foreign Parties' Accused of Financing 'Afghans' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Mar]* 28
Deputy Criticizes Security Forces 'Harassment' *[AL-SABIL 8-14 Mar]* 28
Negotiator on Differences With Israel in Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Mar]* 28
Editorial Welcomes New Russian Initiative *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Mar]* 29
Columnist Warns of Anti-U.S. Emotion *[AL-DUSTUR 9 Mar]* 30
U.S. Bias Toward Israel, Arab Inaction Assailed *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Mar]* 30
Paper Urges Arabs To Lift Embargo on Iraq *[AL-RA'Y 7 Mar]* 31
Editorial Urges Government To Support King *[AL-SABIL 8-14 Mar]* 31

LEBANON

President al-Hirawi Addresses Ramadan Banquet *[VOL]* 33
Army Surrounds LF Militia Headquarters in Ghidras 33
Ja'ja': 'No Apparent Reason' Given *[AFP]* 33
Military Source Denies Reports *[VOL]* 34
Ja'ja' Explains Situation *[RFL]* 34
Syrian Defense Minister, Delegation on Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Group Meets Defense Minister *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Rabin Tours 'Occupied' Border Area, Meets Lahd *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Buwayz on State's Duties After Recent Bombings *[RFL]* 35

SYRIA

Delegation Led by Darawshah Continues Visit 36
Al-Sani Comments *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Meeting Held With Syrian Jews *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Darawshah Interviewed *[Damascus Radio]* 37
DFLP's Hawatimah Meets Delegation *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Darawshah Denies Opposition to Accords *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Delegation Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Foreign Minister Says Visit 'Opening' for Other Visits *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Damascus Denies Claims of Threats to Syrian Jews *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Mar]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

President Gives Sermon, Says Israel Will 'Not Last' *[Tehran Radio]* 40
President on Extending 'Hand of Friendship' to Israel *[Tehran International]* 40
Foreign Ministry Scores UN Human Rights Resolution *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Assembly Speaker Denies Iranians in Islamic Groups Abroad *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Firebomb Thrown at Syrian Embassy in Tehran *[AFP]* 42
Asia, Pacific Ocean: Arena for the West *[SAFF 21 Jan-19 Feb]* 42

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Recieves Croatian Ambassador

NC1003140794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Croatian Ambassador Danijel Bucan.

After the meeting Bucan said that he discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the agreement concluded by Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslims and Croats to establish a confederal union with Croatia so that the Muslim-Croatian "canton" would become an independent state, but at the same time linked to Croatia in matters of joint defense, markets, and a customs union.

He added that he sensed during his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that the latter shares his view that the agreement is essential to a peaceful solution of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the general crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

The Croatian ambassador said he expects the agreement to succeed in view of the longstanding friendship between Muslims and Catholics in that region. He referred to the existence of a mosque and Islamic center in Croatia.

Bucan said he hopes Russia will play a positive role in ensuring the agreement's success.

Palestinian Affairs

Christopher Calls 'Arafat on Draft UN Resolution

LD1003232894 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, this morning received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The call dealt with current efforts to issue a United Nations Security Council resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

Brother President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the draft resolution presented to the Security Council, which contained assurances on Jerusalem and for international protection for our people. was a vital issue for the peace process and its continuity in these current circumstances.

An agreement was reached for follow-up contacts on that matter.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Process, U.S. Role

BR1103112194 Paris LE FIGARO in French 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Claude Lorieux in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin telephoned you on 8 March evening. Why?

['Arafat] To discuss the message which I had sent him through his special envoy Jacques Neriya whom I received in Cairo on Monday. I reaffirmed the measures which need to be taken to ensure the Palestinian people's security and tranquility in the Israeli-occupied territories.

[Lorieux] In other words, you are putting forward preconditions for the resumption of the peace negotiations....

['Arafat] We are not talking about preconditions but about the precise implementation of the agreement reached on 13 September in Washington by the Palestinians and the Israelis. Take the Jewish settlements within the city of Hebron. Thev are illegal. Moreover, eight ministers of the Rabin government are asking that their occupants be removed. I am not asking for them to be destroyed, but moved.

[Lorieux] Why are these settlements situated in the heart of the city more illegal than Qiryat Arb'a, which is growing up outside the gates of Hebron?

['Arafat] The 13 September agreement makes provision for the issue of Jewish settlements (Qiryat Arba', for instance) to be discussed later. The text states: "As soon as possible and no later than the beginning of the third year" following the agreement. "As soon as possible" because we think, like the Israelis, that it is a burning issue. But, can you understand it? Although Qiryat Arba' is three-fourths empty, why on earth are the settlers coming and installing themselves in the city? Why are they coming and confiscating Palestinian houses?

[Lorieux] Have you convinced Mr. Rabin?

['Arafat] Our reference is the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September. There can only be one authority: Israeli today and Palestinian when we are in Gaza and Jericho. The Israeli Army is therefore responsible for the security of the settlers. However, the settlers have become another power. A separate, armed, and dangerous power.

[Lorieux] That is your analysis. But I repeat my question: Did you convince the Israeli prime minister on Tuesday evening?

['Arafat] No. It was a discussion. He gave his viewpoint, I gave mine. I spoke in particular about the establishment of an international presence in the occupied territories. The Declaration of Principles mentions this possibility. It is very important that this international

presence should be rapidly established to ensure the protection of our people. We are not making new demands. We are just asking for the Declaration of Principles to be honestly implemented. Throughout the seven months of negotiations which have followed the Washington agreements, the Israelis have insisted on one issue: the security of the settlers. However, it seems that the Jewish settlements are time bombs. This is particularly glaring because those responsible for the Hebron tragedy are not only settlers but some units of the Israeli Army. The Israeli Army opened fire to protect the retreat of the Israeli settlers and, as we have since learned, it also opened fire on the faithful who were trying to flee the mosque. Outside, facing the entrance, soldiers killed eight people and wounded 24. The Israeli commission of inquiry itself admits that there was negligence. How is this possible? That mosque is under the sole protection of the Israeli Army.

[Lorieux] It is constantly being announced that the UN Security Council will adopt a resolution on the 25 February massacre. This text should not only condemn the killing but also define the measures to be taken to prevent new incidents.

['Arafat] We hope that the U.S. representative will vote in favor of it. But 13 days have already passed. You can imagine what that means: 13 days after that horrible massacre. And, as I speak to you, nothing has yet been done.

[Lorieux] Is the Security Council's inability to act the only obstacle to the resumption of the negotiations interrupted after the massacre?

['Arafat] It is one of the obstacles. Let us not forget that many UN resolutions have remained a dead letter. We are determined to ensure that the ones adopted on Hebron are actually implemented.

[Lorieux] You are likely to have to wait for the completion of negotiations not only on the principle but on the methods of establishing an international presence in the occupied territories. The organization, composition, and deployment of that presence will have to be defined...

['Arafat] Let us make things clear. I want to be sure that the Security Council's decision will change the situation on the ground. It is my right to demand it. It is also the right of my people who want to see the situation changing in practice. They have been waiting for seven months.

[Lorieux] When you talk of an international presence, are you thinking of an armed presence?

['Arafat] Allow me to ask you a question. Who will protect this international force? The armed Jewish settlers?

[Lorieux] You mean that the members of this force will have to ensure their own protection...

['Arafat] Yes. It is for them to protect themselves. I am not asking them to have tanks. I am simply asking that they do not constitute an additional responsibility for we Palestinians. They will have to be active and play their role.

[Lorieux] Where should they be deployed? In Gaza-Jericho which is due to come under Palestinian authority on 13 April? Or in the whole of the West Bank, which is to remain under Israeli occupation until the election of the "Palestinian authority" in July?

['Arafat] The first group should go to Hebron to provide the Palestinian population with the protection decided by the Security Council. This is urgent. We must be aware of our people's anger, and that of the Arab people, the Muslim people, the Christian people in the world, the international community. I have even received messages of condolence signed by Jewish organizations.

[Lorieux] A consensus had still not been found in the UN Security Council 13 days after Hebron. Particularly because the Americans are refusing to allow the Council's resolution to be applied to the occupied territories "including Jerusalem?" Do you know why?

['Arafat] Ask the Americans! The Security Council is not working on a draft resolution presented by the Palestinians, the Arabs, or the nonaligned countries, but on a text presented by the U.S. Administration. This U.S. text refers to resolution 799 which relates to the fourth Geneva convention which is applicable to all the occupied territories "including Jerusalem." The Americans' refusal conflicts with their initial position.

[Lorieux] Is it therefore a change of attitude by Washington?

['Arafat] That is what it seems to be.

[Lorieux] Bill Clinton came to the presidency with the most pro-Israeli team that the White House had seen for a long time. The President, on contact with the real situation, seemed to change. But, since the Hebron massacre, do you think that the U.S. attitude has taken a step backward?

['Arafat] We will have to wait and see. This massacre is a turning-point. Like the Sarajevo market massacre. The Hebron massacre was planned and organized by Israeli Army units and by armed settlers. It is something like the Secret Army Organization—illegal organization supporting French rule of Algeria formed during Algerian war. We must therefore wait until the whole U.S. reaction is revealed at all levels and not just in the Security Council. We will have to gauge their participation in the international force. We are not asking for the moon. We are asking for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles of 13 September which makes provision for an international presence. Will the United States be up to the responsibilities which it has shouldered since the signing of this Declaration of Principles at the White House? That is the whole question.

[Lorieux] Russia thinks that the Hebron shooting has "completely scuttled the negotiation process." It has therefore just proposed the "convening of a second Madrid conference." What do you think of this idea?

['Arafat] It is a good idea.

[Lorieux] Is the process launched in Madrid in October 1991 so bogged down that something else should be tried?

['Arafat] No, it should be freshened up and reactivated.

[Lorieux] When you received me in October before your visit to France, you told me: "If Rabin makes a promise, he keeps his word." Can you confirm your judgment today?

['Arafat] I stick to the situation and the facts. Our people are waiting for the decisions to be implemented in the field. Slogans are not enough.

[Lorieux] Some Palestinians burned your picture in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon. What is your reaction?

['Arafat] These autos-da-fe are the work of secret services. I know who is behind them. I do not have the impression that the Palestinians are angry with me.

[Lorieux] Over the months, and especially since Hebron, you have come under growing criticism. Even within the PLO....

['Arafat] My comrades have the right to criticize me. It is their right to ask me to listen to them more. Seven months after the 13 September agreement, nothing has changed in the daily lives of the Palestinians in the territories.

[Lorieux] Have you convinced Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton that it is necessary to go into action, as you put it?

['Arafat] I hope so. Otherwise, the scenario changes. Peace is not just something the Palestinians need. The Israelis, Americans, and Europeans need it, too. If this agreement is not implemented, the Near East will enter into a period of confusion and Balkanization.

[Lorieux] The Israelis are in less of a hurry than you. That was obvious during your last meeting with Mr. Peres in Cairo a month ago.

['Arafat] In Cairo, I was very accommodating. I wanted to give the peace process a last chance. But I stress that it was a last chance. If the Declaration of Principles is not implemented precisely and honestly, I will be entitled to explain to my people how that came about. They are waiting for me to do so. I will not deceive my people. Its patience is limited.

[Lorieux] Have you set a deadline?

['Arafat] Yes, 12 April is the deadline. It is the day fixed in the Declaration of Principles for the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. In one month's time!

[Lorieux] If that deadline is not honored, what will you do? Will you close shop?

['Arafat] If nothing was done, that would mean that the Israeli Government had decided not to respect our agreements! It is not my responsibility which is at stake in this affair. It is the responsibility of the international community and, in particular, the U.S. and Russian joint sponsors of the peace process, particularly President Clinton.

[Lorieux] Last Sunday, the Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas issued an ultimatum to the Jewish settlers: Move before 15 March or watch out! Do you agree with that?

['Arafat] You have to understand our people's despair.

[Lorieux] Some 20,000 Israelis demonstrated in Tel Aviv last Saturday against the Hebron massacre.

['Arafat] By that they showed that a high proportion of Israeli society is against the settlers' crime, against the policy of settlements, and against the fanatical groups which are simply time bombs. This section of the population is opposed to any delay in the implementation of the 13 September Declaration of Principles.

[Lorieux] It is in this terribly tense climate that Francois Leotard is making a visit to Israel. He met with one of your aides in Paris last week. What is your view of the French defense minister's visit?

['Arafat] I have no opinion to express on France's foreign policy. I just think that it would have been preferable to postpone that visit, especially since it is a visit by the defense minister and he will have discussions with the Israeli Army. This visit is likely to be seen by the Israelis, and especially by the fanatical groups, as a favorable signal.

'Arafat Views Hebron Massacre, U.S. Position

NC1003205094

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH on 8 March publishes on pages 1 and 3 an approximately 4,000-word article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari. The article describes a "dialogue" between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and several Egyptian Government and opposition figures, writers, journalists, and artists during a late-night Ramadan banquet hosted by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The banquet is also attended by Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to 'Arafat, and a number of unnamed 'Arafat "aides." The date and place of the banquet is not given, but the writer notes that the al-Baz' banquet was

preceded by an earlier banquet to break the fast hosted by President Mubarak, which suggests that the dialogue was held on 6 March.

The writer begins the article by giving background information on the Hebron massacre and 'Arafat's contacts with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He then notes that in times of crisis, 'Arafat's mind is "clear" and that he acts in a cool manner. He then quotes some of 'Arafat's remarks during the dialogue.

'Arafat says: "I am not a man who lives in dreams. Undoubtedly, mean and violent incidents disturb me; they make me angry and outraged. But during a crisis, I always sit down and think with my mind, not my emotions. In a crisis, I am governed by my mind and the sense of responsibility wins me over. This is because I am required to make a decision and take a stand, a decision and a stand that will affect the destiny of a people and a homeland. Thus, I can never allow myself to make a decision with such magnitude and influence under the pressure of anger or the inspiration of emotions and outrage." 'Arafat then sheds light on his telephone conversation with Christopher. He says: "U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned me. After expressing his regrets and condemnation of the crime and after conveying President Clinton's condolences, he said: Could you send a high-level envoy to discuss all the details of the situation? I immediately answered: Yes. I will send Nabil Sha'th. This is despite the anger, the outrage, and the extreme grief. For I do not allow anger to govern politics. Anger does not make politics."

'Arafat is then asked by journalists Makram Muhammad Ahmad, Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad, National Progressive Unionist Group leader Khalid Muhiy-al-Din, and Lawyers Association President Ahmad al-Khawajah about the results of Sha'th's mission in Washington. He says: "Our people are passing through the most difficult and complicated stage of their lives. Either they will win their struggle and battle or lose everything. Thus, for the thousandth time, there is no place for outrage and there is no room for a decision motivated or dictated by anger. Work to regain the land and rights must not stop. To be clear, Christopher was not the only one who contacted me after the massacre. Rabin did, too, and said a lot of things. I could have declined to take the call, and I had reasons to, but I did not. I told my colleagues in the occupied territories: Do not reject the contacts and do not stop the work, and it is going on day and night. The fact is that if the situation is viewed in a reasonable and sane way we will find that Israel, particularly after the massacre, is in a real predicament. It is trying to get out of the situation by all means—the extremists and the moderates, the political and governmental forces—although each party is trying to get out of it in its own way."

The writer then notes that 'Arafat explains the "political and technical details" of the Oslo agreement. 'Arafat discloses how Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in one of his diplomatic missions in Tel Aviv, managed to "obtain Rabin's and Peres' approval to grant the East Jerusalem Palestinians the rights to run and vote in elections and that Rabin agreed to allocate two ballot boxes for the Jerusalem residents, one in front of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and another in front of the al-Aqsa Mosque."

The writer then notes that al-Baz is asked about Egyptian press reports calling for speeding up normalization with Israel. After noting that decisions on such issues as normalization are not made by the state, since it involves relations between peoples, al-Baz says: "The Egyptian state is linked to Israeli by a peace agreement. Egypt is loyal to its pledges and agreements. The magnitude of cooperation and dealings, which is known as normalization, is governed by practices and responses. It is not made by an administrative or political decision." He adds: "I believe that some writers have noticed that some Arab states, which are advocating the boycott and have discussed with us several joint projects, have hastened to announce various cooperation projects between themselves and Israel. I believe that some of our writers, in the hope of reaching a quick peace and a near solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, thought that everybody was rushing to gain the benefits of peace while Egypt remained faithful to its Arab principles and commitments to Palestine. This is the whole situation and there is nothing more to it. Common interests are too great to be made or motivated by decisions."

'Arafat is then pressed to disclose the U.S. position and the answers brought back from Washington by Nabil Sha'th. He says: "I disagree with Nabil. He is always optimistic and he says good things about the position of Christopher and the U.S. Administration. But at the same time, he brought us many U.S. reservations regarding the failure of the Security Council to issue a resolution, because of the Americans, following a horrible massacre. We did not ask the United States for anything new. We asked it to make a reference to what it had already agreed to in Security Council Resolution 799 on Jerusalem issued in 1992. The strange thing is that the United States, the sponsor of this resolution, refuses to mention it in the new resolution. It also does not want to announce anything before obtaining Israel's prior approval, particularly with respect to the international monitoring or the international troops. We do not want troops equipped with heavy weapons and tanks, we just want two platoons [fasilatyn]. And I have an approval from Russia, France, England, and Belgium for approximately 1,000 soldiers. This would be a multinational force, like the one in Sinai, armed with personal weapons to only undertake protection and monitoring. The sad thing is that, while we are waging this fierce and tough battle to maintain the momentum, preserve the rights, and regain the land, many come out and make the most horrendous accusations against us. For instance, they call Nabil a traitor and say that he surrendered, but the fact is that he is waging a tough battle of negotiations and

defense." 'Arafat adds: "The agreement on the occupied territories is the beginning of the establishment of a Palestinian state. When I found hesitation from the United States because it was waiting for Rabin's approval of international troops in the occupied territories, I told them that the land is my land. The land is Palestinian and sovereignty is for the Palestinians. Those who have the right to approve or disapprove of the presence of troops on the land are the Palestinians, the PLO, and we accept it to protect our people. The agreement signed stipulates withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on 12 April. In July we should start discussions about measures for the withdrawal of Israelis from the remaining area of the occupied territories. Thus, I say it loud and clear: I, and no one else, am the one who has a right to accept or reject the international troops."

'Arafat is then asked if he thinks the Israeli Government is involved in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. 'Arafat says: "Frankly, the Zionist extremist and fanatical forces are still in control of the situation in Israel; in the Army, the government, and the institutions. It is true that the majority supported the agreement and stands strongly behind peace and a settlement, but the extremists still have a strong opinion and hidden tools that they could use at any time, like what happened in Hebron." 'Arafat adds: "Some say that the Army was behind the crime, and I believe this is not accurate. The fact is that some Army factions, not the entire Army, must have acted in collusion. I also refuse to believe that it was an individual act."

Asked if he could still control the Palestinians despite the tragedy, 'Arafat says: "I am confident about the awareness of the Palestinian people, their wisdom, and their sane and rational revolution that refrains from excesses. I am sure that meeting our legitimate and just demands, which must be stipulated in a Security Council resolution, could restore confidence to the Palestinians so that they can proceed toward regaining their rights. The Palestinians are tired of war and displacement and want stability and reconstruction, without surrendering or one-upmanship. But for Israel to maneuver or try to improve its image by minor resolutions, this will solve nothing. We have shown the entire world our goodwill in the saddest moment of the massacre and in the darkest hours of disappointment. If Israel responds, we will return to the negotiations on the basis of a just resolution by the Security Council on the condition that all the Arab parties—meaning Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—will return to the negotiating table, too. We are in touch with them and I have called for a five-party meeting among Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to coordinate our stances before any new step is taken."

Asked if this requires a meeting with Rabin, 'Arafat says: "I do not refuse to meet with Rabin, but shall we meet just to take a picture for the masses? I cannot accept this. But if the meeting is intended to adopt practical steps that could remedy the flaw of the old resolution and open the door for the new rounds, I believe that the awaited Security Council resolution could pave the way for such a meeting."

Asked if he still has pressure cards to negotiate from a strong position, 'Arafat says: "Of course, we still have cards in our hands. Who said peace is our only option? We say it clearly and simply: If you change your mind, we will. If you do not want peace, this is your choice and we are ready with all means. We have shown the world our intentions and the world has seen the crime. On this occasion, I would like to say that this is not the time for ending the Arab boycott, particularly after what happened in Hebron, which could be repeated by the Zionist extremists. I repeat once again that the Palestinians are intelligent and cultured. They want to get rid of the occupation, but at the same time they can endure a great deal. They can endure appalling crimes, such as the Hebron massacre and others, if this is the price for its freedom."

Asked if the Palestinian extremist current will engage in one-upmanship against him, particularly now, 'Arafat said: "Unfortunately, this current is violent against their fellow Palestinians, not the Israelis. We refused the proposal that PLO and Fatah supporters be freed from Israeli prisons and insisted that Israel release everybody without exception. As a result, our cadres are still in prison, while the Islamic current negotiated the release of its cadres alone in a separate agreement with the Israeli authorities."

'Arafat Views Role in PLO, Personal Life

AU1003130994 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Brigitte Voykowitsch and Artur K. Vogel in Tunis on 8 March: "I Will Plant Roses in My Garden"]

[Text] It is one o'clock in the morning in Tunis. Yasir 'Arafat—in uniform, handgun in a green holster—sits behind his desk under a picture of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and signs documents. "Yesterday I started this felt-tip pen," he says. "Today it is already used up."

[DER STANDARD] What about your gun? Have you had to use it?

['Arafat] I have had to use it often. In 1973, the Israelis attacked me in Beirut and, at the same time, my three brothers in Jordan. Only my bodyguards were there—six of them, then I myself, and my secretary. We opened fire, all of us, until we escaped. I tell you just one of the many incidents.

[DER STANDARD] Therefore, they call you the great survivor?

['Arafat] I have a strong belief in God. In Islam we say: The moment has not yet come. And when it comes, no

one will be able to stop it. This is predestination. But who understands why God has made my problems even greater now?

[DER STANDARD] Would you sometimes prefer to be somebody else than the president of Palestine?

['Arafat] No, this is my destiny, and I have accepted it. I was a successful engineer and entrepreneur, but then I joined the revolution and left everything behind. I do not regret it.

[DER STANDARD] Where do you get your energy from?

['Arafat] For me, work is the best way to relax. I am a workaholic. I cannot remember having had one day of vacation ever since I joined the revolution.

[DER STANDARD] You never take a break?

['Arafat] Sometimes I would like to watch cartoons. But I do not have time, I just watch the news on television.

[DER STANDARD] Since the massacre on 25 February in Hebron things have been terrible, but we assume that everything works according to plan between Israel and the PLO: What is your vision of the future state of Palestine?

['Arafat] I have called it the "peace of the brave." This means: Completely new relations with one's enemies. We want the same peace as that between Egypt and Israel.

[DER STANDARD] Would the Palestinian state be a democracy like Austria?

['Arafat] We Palestinians are proud of our democracy; we call it a democracy in the jungle of the guns. But it is one of the most important models of a democracy in this region.

[DER STANDARD] Democracy harbors a risk: The people could elect somebody else. Would you be willing to retire?

['Arafat] I would love to.

[DER STANDARD] What would you do then?

['Arafat] I am an engineer and I like my job.

[DER STANDARD] Could you imagine leading a normal, civilian life, having a house in Jericho, a garden....

['Arafat] Why in Jericho?

[DER STANDARD] ...or Jerusalem, Nablus, Gaza?

['Arafat] Why not?

[DER STANDARD] You would plant roses in your garden?

['Arafat] Sooner or later I will have something like that.

[DER STANDARD] Are you looking forward to that?

['Arafat] Yes. I have a right to that. This is a democracy, and we will accept what is decided in the democracy. However, I am not alone; I am also the chairman of the Fatah Movement.

[DER STANDARD] And now you are also a married man.

['Arafat] That has not changed anything about my situation. Otherwise, I would not be here for this interview.

[DER STANDARD] Are we now (it is almost two o'clock in the morning) keeping you away from your wife?

['Arafat] No, I still have another two hours of work.

[DER STANDARD] The idyllic times in Gaza with roses in the garden have not come yet. We can imagine that Fatah people from Hebron call you and say: "Abu 'Ammar, our people are outraged; they want to avenge themselves for what happened in the mosque." What is your advice to them?

['Arafat] After the massacre, the people are extremely angry. This could not have happened with the participation of the (Israeli) Army. And today (Tuesday) the Israeli investigation committee noted that the Army shares responsibility because the guards came too late. What does that mean: The guards came too late? Where were those who were on duty before? This means that some units, generals, or officers of the Army conspired with the armed settlers. And since we are talking of the massacre of Hebron: Since then we have had another massacre; 37 people were killed, more than 400 injured, and more than 2,000 arrested.

[DER STANDARD] Is it not surprising that the Palestinians have not yet decided to resume their armed struggle?

['Arafat] They have been patient so far, but that has limits.

[DER STANDARD] Can you imagine a situation in which you say: We must interrupt the peace process?

['Arafat] I have never deceived my people. If we reach a dead end, I will tell my people.

[DER STANDARD] But a dead end does not mean an interruption of the peace process?

['Arafat] Who knows, it takes two to tango.

[DER STANDARD] Sometimes tragic events can have positive effects, such as the grenade attack on the market in Sarajevo. Do you think something like that is possible in connection with the massacre in Hebron?

['Arafat] After Sarajevo, the Americans seized the initiative. But here they are not doing anything. Quite the opposite, they are even preventing the UN Security

Council from adopting a resolution. The other members of the Council would be for it.

[DER STANDARD] At the end of September, the first pictures of your potential future residence in Jericho turned up....

['Arafat] Do you know how many houses I have been given? Fifty-eight. I expressed thanks for them and said: I need only one—perhaps.

[DER STANDARD] Have you chosen one?

['Arafat] No, no.

[DER STANDARD] When will you need a house in Jericho?

['Arafat] After what has happened, it is very difficult to give a date.

[DER STANDARD] Has the peace process not reached a point where both Rabin and you would suffer political damage if it collapsed?

['Arafat] Yes, but the Israelis are the occupation power. It is important that the Israelis realize that they cannot survive or coexist with force. Where is the Soviet Union today, formerly the biggest nuclear power in the world?

[DER STANDARD] Does not Rabin's fate depend on yours and yours on that of Rabin?

['Arafat] No, my fate depends on God.

[DER STANDARD] And Rabin's fate?

['Arafat] On God and on my people.

Qaddumi on UN Resolution, Russian Initiative

NC1003193494 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi affirmed in an interview with London MBC Television this evening that the U.S. Administration is putting intense pressure on the PLO to force it to return to the negotiating table. He described the Russian initiative to hold a new international conference as worthy of consideration.

Qaddumi said the PLO made many concessions to the U.S. Administration after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre to encourage the United States to approve a draft resolution condemning Israel. But Clinton's administration rejected the draft, threatening to veto it. We asked Qaddumi first about the PLO reaction to the U.S. lack of neutrality:

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] We were surprised to see the United States postponing this draft resolution. Mr. Dennis Ross contacted us to say that it was necessary to hold negotiations with Peres or one of the brothers and that if we agreed to these negotiations they would approve the draft resolution. We refused. Mr. Ross contacted us again to threaten that the United States would veto the resolution. We said: If, as a major state responsible for peace and security in the region, you want to tamper with peace then this is your own business, but we cannot drop Jerusalem from that draft. Therefore, Jerusalem will stay. We have to see practical measures, not only a decision to approve this draft; we have to see action taken to reassure our people that some measures have been taken, either by the United Nations or the conference sponsors.

[Qabalan] What is your reaction to the Russian suggestion to hold an international conference similar to the Madrid summit, and what are the prospects for success?

[Qaddumi] In fact, I believe that the Russian suggestion is worthy of consideration. There must be an international conference to assess what was achieved in the past; to determine who disturbs the climate of peace, who commits acts that violate the stipulations of the agreement completely, who obstructs this agreement, who fails to show commitment to the agreement, who deports and kills the citizens, who spoils everything, and who is the cause of all that tension. It is Israel. Who is backing Israel? It is the United States of America.

It is necessary to make an international assessment of this march so that we can determine who is responsible for obstructing this peaceful march. It is Israel, with U.S. backing. [end recording]

PLO Groups Agree To Revive Intifadah Command

NC1003121694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 10 Mar (MENA)—The Tunisian paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today cited informed Palestinian sources as saying that a meeting was held at the Palestinian Orient House Hotel in East Jerusalem, in which all PLO groups took part with the exception of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The sources noted that the meeting was held to reorganize relations between these groups in light of current developments in the wake of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

The sources added that an agreement was reached at this meeting, which was chaired by Faysal al-Husayni as the head of the Fatah Movement in the West Bank, that stipulated the revival of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah. They said that agreement was also reached on reformulating national unity on the basis of the struggle [against the Israeli occupation] and within the framework of firm Palestinian principles.

They also noted that collective action will be taken to support the PLO command's suspension of the peace process in protest of the Hebron massacre and linkage of the resumption of negotiations to the drawing up of new rules and bases that will ensure the removal of the existing settlements in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian sources expressed their belief that the Palestinian groups' representatives might soon reach an agreement, according to which the Population Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine will return to the PLO establishments and leadership bodies.

Palestinian Leaders Ask 'Arafat To Quit Talks

JN1003121694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 94 p 10

[Text] Amman—A significant number of members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and Palestine Central Council (PCC) and independent Palestinians as well as leaders of hardline Palestinian factions Wednesday [9 March] called on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat not to return to the suspended peace talks with Israel until the Jewish state complies with a set of basic demands.

It was the strongest yet call on the PLO chairman to quit the 28-month-old peace talks in the wake of the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler at a Hebron mosque and seek fundamental changes to the format of the negotiations, which he suspended after the massacre.

The memorandum added to the growing pressure on Mr. 'Arafat not to return to the talks. Reports from Tunis, where the PLO is headquartered, said senior PLO officials and 'Arafat confidants were also calling on Mr. 'Arafat not to relent on his demands for international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the inclusion of the status of the Jewish settlements there was a topic for negotiations related to the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement—an idea that Israel has rejected.

A memorandum, signed by 130 PNC and PCC members, including six members of the PLO Executive Committee and 115 Palestinian businessmen, professors, unionists, journalists and acadamics, demanded that Israel suspended all settlement activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as Jerusalem, dismantle existing settlements and remove all settlers from the occupied territories.

It demanded that international protection be offered to two million Palestinans living under Israeli occupation and a United Nations force take control over the occupied territories until the Palestinians assume responsibility for the terrorities.

The memorandum denounced the killings at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron as "a brutal, premeditated massacre," and held Israel solely responsible for the attack as well as the violence that followed, "killing tens of martyrs and wounding hundreds...."

"We condemn the American policy that encouraged Israeli intransigence and aggression and helped cover up the direct responsibility of the Israeli occupation authorities in the massacre," said the signatories, who included PLO Executive Committee members Taysir Khaled, Abu 'Ali Mustafa, 'Abdallah Hurani, 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh, Shafiq al-Hut and Muhammad Isma'il, who have either resigned from the panel or frozen their membership.

"We demand that the ongoing negotiations with the Israeli enemy, the bilaterals and multilaterals and all secret and public (talks) be stopped until the international community, especially the Security Council, responds to us and Israel adheres to our just demands," said the memo, also signed by prominent PNC and PCC members such as Ibrahim Bakr, Hani Hurani and Saji Salameh as well as Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayif Hawatimah.

The PFLP and DFLP are not opposed to negotiated solution to the Arab-Iraeli conflict, but they object to the present conditions of the peace negotiations which they say are stacked against Palestinian aspirations and objectives and would not lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

The memorandum set the following conditions for the resumption of peace talks:

—"The elimination of all settlements and settlement activities in accordance with U.N. resulutions, specifically Resolution 464 of 1980, which considers settlements as illegal, and the evacuation of all settlers from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

—"Providing of international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation and applying the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and forming a U.N. force to temporarily provide security there until the Palestinian people and its national authority assume responsibility there.

—"Negotiations with the Israeli enemy be based on the commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and of the United Nations related to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict with a view to implementing them in a manner that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people to return and build their own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

—"The immediate annulment of all agreements, be they secret, public, political, economic or security, that deny the rights of our people to full sovereignty over its land or undermine their right to national indepdnence."

The memorandum praised Jordan, Syria and Lebanon for suspending their peace talks with Israel and caled on them to remain steadfast on their position until Israel adheres to the legitimate resolutions related to the arab-Israeli conflict."

"We call on our people under occupation to solidify their national unity and escalate their resistance and holy intifadah against the occupation forces and settlers," said the one-page memo, accopanied by 16 pages of signatures. "We express our deep condolences to our people in Hebron over the death of the martyrs.

"We call on the Arab states and their political and popular forces to unify their efforts in their fight against the occupation.

"We demand the international community and its human and democratic institutions to work on exposing the fascist practices of the Israeli occupation authorities."

PFLP-GC Claims Responsibility for SLA Attack

NC0803140394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack against a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol. The front said it killed or wounded more than 10 patrol members in al-'Ayshiyah and captured four others; three of those captured died while the fourth survived.

The front's statement added that a member of the group that carried out the attack was wounded. Security sources in the border zone this morning confirmed that one of the patrol member is still missing. The sources admitted that three SLA members had been killed along with a man and his wife in the attack against the patrol.

Denies Killing Civilians

JN1003194894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Regarding last Monday's [7 March] operation and the pro-Israeli militiaman who was captured by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PLFLP-GC], an official spokesman for the front has made the following statement in reply to accusations by the Zionist enemy and its agents that the PFLP-GC's fighters killed civilians while they were carrying out their heroic operation on the al-Rayhan-al-'Ayshiyah Highway last Monday:

If our fighters had actually wanted to kill civilians, they would not have allowed civilian cars to pass by safely on the highway, on which our fighters had set up their ambush for the enemy's patrols and its military agents. While we clarify this matter for public opinion, we assert that it is the Zionist enemy's forces that killed the civilians while they were coming on the scene of the heroic operation in order to chase our heroic comrades. The PFLP-GC will turn the captive, who was brought by our comrades, over to the Islamic Resistance after questioning him.

Fatah's Zaki: Hawks Ordered To Avenge Massacre

JN1003163794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Mar 94 pp 32, 26

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] Amman—'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member, has again held Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin fully responsible for the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. He said the massacre is part of a larger Israeli scheme to empty Hebron and Jerusalem of Palestinian citizens to prepare for the implementation of the old Zionist idea of a land without people for a people without a land.

In a seminar organized by the Dialogue and Thought Club at Philadelphia University at noon yesterday, Zaki said that because they are unsatisfied with the official Palestinian and Arab recognition of their entity, the Israelis now want religious recognition. Hence, he said, other massacres should be expected in the occupied territories in order to move the battle from the political to the religious arena. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question, 'Abbas Zaki said he supports negotiations, but believes they should not be the only approach, since other methods must be supported. He explained that the Vietnamese and Algerian revolutions were negotiating and fighting at the same time.

Zaki said: The massacre will not go unpunished. Instructions have been issued to the Fatah Hawks. However, these instructions have not been implemented yet because of the Israeli maximum state of alert in anticipation of a painful Palestinian response.

Complaining about the weak coordination among the joint commands in the occupied territories, Zaki said Fatah has made no decision to end the armed struggle against the occupation. He complained that the Palestinian factions are vying among themselves for positions in unions or professional federations in the West Bank and Gaza strip, but fail to vie to confront the Israeli occupation.

He said competition for positions has exposed many militants. He said Fatah means martyrdom, pride in martyrs, and the inevitability of the masses' victory. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Peace Process, Regional Issues

NC1003154194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, 10 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that he is confident that the current year will bring the beginning of real peace. He said that any delay in the peace talks is a "waste," noting that the Arab states have not called for suspending the negotiations but for postponing them. He pointed out that the Palestinian and Israeli leaders need peace and that the peace process must move forward.

In an interview with the Lebanese magazine AL-HAWADITH, President Mubarak stressed that cooperation is needed and is in the best interest of all peoples. He noted that, despite the animosity that existed between the French and the Germans, their common interests dictated that they cooperate. In the interview, President Mubarak described terrorists as "hired criminals paid by some quarters that seek to cause unrest in Egypt or any region." He noted that these quarters spend a lot of money to carry out their plans. President Mubarak added that the Hebron operation is sheer extremism, noting that extremism exists in the United States, England, Australia, and elsewhere.

In his remarks to AL-HAWADITH chief editor Milhim Karam, President Mubarak touched on the new world order, which he described as "a chaotic order." He pointed out that it is "wrong" to call it the new world order. He said that this order is transitional and not the end of the road. As for the new world order, he added, it will come when this chaotic order is over.

Regarding Iraq, President Mubarak said: We are against partitioning Iraq. Our position is clear and firm on this matter. President Mubarak described Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia and all the Gulf states as "good and fraternal relations." He described Egypt's relations with Lebanon and Syria as "fully fraternal relations."

Turning to Egypt's relations with Russia, President Mubarak said they are "good relations." He added: I do not wish to antagonize any country. There is a problem with Iran, and it is the one that seeks to antagonize Egypt. We have no relations with Iran. We were about to exchange ambassadors a year ago, but they disagreed among themselves.

Asked about the Hebron massacre and its impact on the peace process, President Mubarak said that the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque is an "appalling tragedy" that pained us all. He added: But despite what happened and the difficulties facing the negotiations, we believe that the peace process is fundamental to the Palestinian people and the entire region. President Mubarak expressed confidence that the peace process will continue. He added: I know that the Palestinian and Israeli leaders need peace and that extremists anywhere on earth do not want that because they like to live in an atmosphere of extremism. President Mubarak stressed that the peace process is serious. He noted that despite the obstacles that exist, which is natural in an issue that goes back 45 years, peace will come, and the Palestinian issue is at the core of the conflict. He expressed his belief that extremism in Israel will not triumph and will not blow up the peace process, which is a just demand by all peoples. He also expressed confidence that Lebanon and Syria will reach a solution with Israel over the Golan and south Lebanon.

Replying to a question on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre's impact on the Cairo Agreement, President Mubarak said he expects the negotiations to resume soon after people have calmed down and that the parties concerned will sign an accord now that they have come so far. He added: I tell the Palestinians to put their feet on the ground first and then make demands. He noted that the Palestinian side is talking while it is outside its land.

He stressed the need for cooperation and coordination between the Palestinians and the parties directly concerned with the peace process and said: I have a duty to fulfill, which is unifying the fold.

Commenting on Arab summits, he said that they are not held annually and that Arab division after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait resulted in a rift in the Arab world. He affirmed that he is doing all he can to clear Arab air for the good of the nation.

Concerning Iraq, Mubarak said: We support the Iraqi people and stand against partition. We are saddened by their suffering because they are Arab Muslim people. (?Had) Saddam Husayn (?heard) my sincere advice, it would not have happened, his position would have been stronger, and Iraq's power would have been a tributary for Arab strength.

On the situation in Algeria, he said: I hope our brothers in Algeria under President Zeroual's regime will put an end to the odious extremism that will destroy all the nation's resources. If the parties concerned want the survival of their country, they should sit with the Algerian president to discuss solutions to end their problems.

Regarding the Lockerbie issue, President Mubarak said: We have exerted enormous efforts, but the world today is preoccupied with Bosnia and Somalia. I hope we will find a way out for Libya to resolve the problem because the handover of the two Libyan suspects is "difficult and sensitive."

Asked about the situation and challenges in Africa in his capacity as current chairman of the OAU, President Mubarak noted the numerous problems facing development there. He said enormous efforts are necessary and that we are doing our best to end the conflicts, which are "border disputes." He referred to the problems in Liberia, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan.

He said that had the African countries adhered to the African summit's resolution in the 1960's, when the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir asked them to stick to the borders left by colonialism.... [sentence incomplete as received]

Speaking about the Somali problem, President Mubarak said that the African summit has entrusted a committee with the task of ending this problem but there are difficulties in our way. He added: We hosted in Egypt some of the rival parties with the exception of General Farah Aidid who did not want to come. Mubarak emphasized that as OAU chairman he does not take sides with any party against another but that he speaks about all of them with extreme fairness and neutrality. He said: We are working for Somalia's unity and the Somali parties have to agree among themselves so that their people can survive.

Asked about Sudan and the Hala'ib issue, President Mubarak said: What is this Hala'ib? They want to fabricate a story with us. They did so during the days of the late Presidents Anwar al-Sadat and Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. Al-Turabi wants to create a problem. They are free to do as they please but as for us we have no problem.

President Mubarak stressed the need to launch a dialogue between the north and the south and said it is unreasonable for the north to live a very affluent life while the south lives at subsistence level.

As for the Nonaligned Movement, Mubarak said: They are all aligned. The small countries need the big ones to help them in development. This is what brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said and he is right; everyone is aligned. But as for today, with whom and against whom should alignment be? The Nonaligned Movement is losing the reasons for its existence.

Asked about development in Egypt, the president noted the great efforts that have been made to rebuild the infrastructure and said: We have spent 100 billion pounds for this purpose.

On the effect of the acts of violence on tourism in Egypt, President Mubarak said the number of tourists arriving in Egypt has indeed decreased but Egypt, which has seven thousand years of civilization, will not be affected by a group of terrorists who have nothing to do with religion.

Interior Minister on 'Foreign Quarters' Involvement

NC1103104194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] London, 11 Mar (MENA)—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has stated that the security services recently foiled several terror schemes.

He told the London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAH that police identified and monitored the extremist groups after tightening control of desert areas, shanty towns, and Nile islands, where those groups had their secret hideouts.

Al-Alfi stressed that foreign quarters are involved in the terrorist operations in Egypt.

He said police are constantly directing abortive blows at terrorist schemes. The arrest of those involved in recent bank bombings in Cairo and al-Jizah comes within this context, he said.

The interior minister renewed rejection of a dialogue with the terrorists.

He said terrorists try to create what he described as "media furor." Some foreign news media help them by inflating their operations, he noted.

Al-Alfi said Egyptian security agencies are watching developments in the structure of the terrorist groups on every level, beginning with relations among them and ending with the splits and alliances that affect changes of membership.

He said Egypt is in constant touch with foreign states where some extremist leaders reside.

Al-Alfi said the lack of indictment against Ayman al-Zawahiri, an al-Jihad organization leader now living in Switzerland, in the case of the attempt on Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi's life concerns the interrogation authorities. Perhaps those authorities don't have enough evidence for an indictment, he said.

Notes 'Serious' Terrorist Scheme

NC1103075094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has revealed a serious, sizable terrorist scheme that was ready for implementation during 'Id al-Adha.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Friday, the interior minister disclosed that the security agencies managed to frustrate the scheme beforehand, after seizing faxed instructions from abroad found in the possession of the 25 terrorists arrested last Sunday.

Al-Alfi added that the dreadful scheme sought to terrify the public by carrying out a number of terrorist operations such as blowing up a considerable number of recreation grounds, cinemas, and theaters and assassinating a number of public figures.

In the interview, al-Alfi reveals that large amounts of money, estimated at thousands of dollars, were found in the possession of the members of this new terrorist organization, which belongs to the "Islamic Group," who were involved in recent attempts to blow up banks. The money was being used to finance their operations.

Al-Alfi added that large amounts of material used in making high-explosive charges were discovered in hideouts in Asyut and Cairo. Sent from abroad, the material contained new substances that were to be used for the first time and were to be set off by remote control to cause the largest possible explosions.

24 Deputies Propose Expelling Israeli Ambassador

NC1003153494 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] The People's Assembly yesterday decided to refer to the Arab Affairs, Foreign Relations, and National Security Committee a proposal by 24 members demanding that the Israeli ambassador in Egypt be expelled, the Egyptian ambassador in Israel be withdrawn, and Egyptian-Israeli relations be frozen.

Israeli Arab Delegation Arrives After Syria Visit

NC1103091794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—An Israeli Arab delegation led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party and member of the Israeli Knesset, arrived in Cairo from Damascus this morning.

Arriving, Darawshah said the delegation met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who stated that Syria wants a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions and that it is ready to apply the principle of "full peace in return for full withdrawal."

Darawshah said al-Asad stressed that Syria wants to strengthen and unify Arab coordination to mark real achievements for the Arab parties. Al-Asad explained that Syria has a free Arab will and that no solution can be imposed on it through pressure or coercion.

Darawshah said he also met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who stressed Syria's readiness to receive Israeli Arab delegations any time.

Darawshah said the Syrian Government did not ask him to convey a specific message to the Israeli Government. But what he heard is considered a message of peace, which he will sincerely convey to the Israeli Knesset and Government.

Concluding, Darawshah said: We trust the Syrian stance, which seeks to achieve peace. The ball is now in Israel's court. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin must frankly declare that he is ready for a full withdrawal. Darawshah said Syria is against settlement activity in the occupied territories and demands international protection for the Palestinians.

Students Continue Demonstrations Over Hebron

NC1003152094 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Hanan Kamal]

[Text] Angry demonstrations protesting the Hebron massacre have taken place in the Cairo universities for the second successive week. The demonstrations extended to regional universities, most notably Alexandria and al-Zaqaziq. In al-Zaqaziq University, the students of the Nasirist Ideology Club led a demonstration of thousands of students the day before yesterday protesting Arab inaction and the surrender of the PLO under 'Arafat.

Last Thursday, at Alexandria University, the security forces stormed the campus and used shotguns, tear gas canisters, and electric clubs [al-'usi al-kahraba'iyah] in an attempt to disperse thousands of student demonstrators, wounding over 100 students, including eight who were taken to the university hospital and the Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Hospital.

Hundreds Wounded, Detained

NC1003181594 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Salih Rajab]

[Excerpts] Hundreds of people were wounded and hundreds of others were detained as a result of the security forces' savage suppression of the uprising of the angry Egyptian people in protest against the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The Interior Ministry last week mobilized tens of thousands of central security and antiterrorism forces to suppress the popular demonstrations, which started from the universities, mosques, and trade union headquarters. These forces used extremely sophisticated weapons, including modern tear gas canister launchers, which have a range double that of the older type. The type of the canisters used is also more effective than the other tear gas canisters, as they cause serious inflammation to the stomach's mucous membrane and to the respiratory system. The rest of the repression arsenal included rubber bullets, shotgun cartridges, and electric clubs [al-'usi al- kahraba'iyah.

More than 1,000 people, most of them students, were arrested last week. They were all charged with illegal gathering and rioting and then most of them were released. The number of people injured exceeded 800, most of them students. At Cairo University the number of injured up to last Thursday was 116 male and female students. Ten people were seriously wounded, most of them as a result of shotgun pellets. Some of them said they were wounded inside the university campus. [passage omitted]

The situation at 'Ayn Shams University was no better than at Cairo University. The police opened fire with

shotguns from close range at the demonstrators, seriously wounding a large number of students. Some of them lost their sight as a result of shotgun pellets. The 'Ayn Shams hospital received 60 wounded students up to last Thursday. Thirty others were admitted to the Dar al-Shifa' hospital.

Paper Urges Israel To 'Determine' 'Position'

NC1103113694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0722 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—The Cairo-based paper AL-JUMHURIYAH says the time has come for Israel to honestly determine its position on peace. Bloody confrontations in the streets of the West Bank and Gaza, says the paper, emphasize that the Israeli occupation is heading toward an end and that Israeli army foot patrols cannot roam the streets of Palestinian villages and cities forever.

The paper says in its editorial today that if the Gaza-Jericho Agreement was considered a positive step toward disengaging the Israeli occupation forces and the Palestinian masses in the West Bank and Gaza, hopes have, or almost have, been dashed, thanks to the Hebron massacre, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's refusal to evacuate or disarm the settlers, and the Security Council's failure to clearly and unequivocally condemn the carnage.

It would appear that correct beginnings do not lead to correct results in Israel's political and negotiatory lexicon, the paper says. It explains: The world considered the Madrid conference for Middle East peace to be the beginning of the end of the bitter conflict in the region within a framework of a just and lasting peace. But the horrible Hebron massacre threw all hopes into uncertainty.

The paper believes peace is in Israel's interest. It says Israel, in return for Arab recognition, must work for mutual peace and security and show good intentions by offering realistic concessions commensurate with the importance of ending the Middle East conflict.

Saudi Arabia

Government Bans Use, Manufacturing of Satellite Dishes

LD1003154194 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The following decision has been issued by the Council of Ministers:

Decision No. 128, date 25/9/1414 A.H. [7/3/1994]

On the basis of the discussions in the Council of Ministers' session on the noticed constant increase in the spread of satellites which started to transmit their different TV programs to reception equipments wherever they might be.

In the interest of an organizational situation which determines the necessary controls and rules for the reception of external television broadcasts via the international satellite channels in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the council decides the following:

First, the Information Ministry assumes the task and responsibility of implementing the project of receiving external television transmission via the international satellite channels and transmitting it to viewers via the cable system inside the kingdom in accordance with the religious and social values in the country.

Second, the import of dishes and their accessories which are used for the reception of foreign satellites programs is forbidden. The manufacturing of or any of their parts is forbidden inside the kingdom. The use of microwaves, decoders, or any other means for the reception and distribution of satellite transmission inside the kingdom is also banned. The manufacturing of the decoders or their parts is forbidden locally.

Third, it is forbidden to transfer satellite television transmission to the viewers inside the kingdom by anyone, or any quarter by means of subscriptions, be it by using microwaves, decoders, or anything else.

Fourth, whoever violates the provisions of articles 2 and 3 of this decision is punishable by a financial fine of no less than 100,000 riyals and no more than 500,000 riyals, together with the confiscation of the equipments, the subject of the violation.

Yemen

Salih Returns From Working Visit to Egypt

JN1003144994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih returned to the homeland at 0130 today following a short working visit to fraternal Egypt.

During the visit, he met with his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The two presidents held talks on ways to further the close relations between the two fraternal countries, on the regional, Arab, and international developments, and on issues of interest to the Arab nation, particularly the two countries' efforts to restore Arab solidarity. The Presidential Council chairman also briefed President Mubarak on developments in our country, the Pledge and Accord Document which was signed in Amman, and the efforts being exerted to implement it on the ground in a way to safeguard unity and democracy in our country. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Receives Joint Committee, Urges Normalization

JN1003181994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Last night in Aden, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received the members of the Joint Military Committee. Committee members briefed him on the progress of the committee's efforts to stop the deterioration and return military units to their previous positions, in accordance with the powers given to it to normalize the military situation and implement the provisions of the pledge and accord document pertaining to the military aspect.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid welcomed the members of the Joint Military Committee and congratulated them on the end of the blessed month of Ramadan and the advent of the happy 'Id al-Fitr. He wished that the committee's efforts, as well as the positive results it has reached, will succeed in achieving all goals and missions. He stressed the need to speed up efforts to normalize the situation, remove all recently established military sites, and return units to their positions in order to end the tension that might spark sedition and fighting among the sons of the homeland.

The vice chairman of the Presidential Council stressed the need to double peaceful and democratic efforts and to resort to the spirit of dialogue, wisdom, rationality, patience, and perseverance to deal with all issues and challenges threatening the unity and efforts to build a modern Yemeni state. He emphasized the need to maintain unity, adhere to democracy, promote security and stability, and protect national and other interests under unity.

Concluding, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid wished the committee every success in overcoming the difficulties and challenges and in preparing appropriate climates to continue its work to entrench the pillars of security and stability for our people and the region's peoples.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir.

Foreign Minister on Crisis, Egypt's Mediation

NC1103093594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah, in Sanaa, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; on the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Basindwah] Good morning to you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih briefly visited Cairo on Wednesday and met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. You attended the meeting. What were the main topics of discussion in light of the Yemeni crisis and the Egyptian role?

[Basindwah] First, I would like to note that the ease with which the visit was quickly organized reflects the warmth of relations between Sanaa and Cairo. There are no formalities between the two countries. The hospitality was warm and as expected. Sanaa senses Cairo's interest in Yemeni developments. This is why President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih visited his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to inform him of the latest developments in the Yemeni crisis. He said that Sanaa fully accepts Cairo's mediation and role by President Mubarak to bring viewpoints closer. Sanaa always looks forward to Cairo playing its major pan-Arab role. Cairo has always been the source of hope for the Arab nation.

[Abu-al-Majd] Were there new proposals to resolve the crisis, especially as the visit of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih came amid high tension between him and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who visited Cairo before signing the Pledge and Accord Document?

[Basindwah] I believe that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Cairo did not come amid a deterioration of the crisis, certainly not on the military level. I believe the military crisis has virtually been defused. But there are continuing political differences and the ice between Aden and Sanaa must be melted. Cairo can play a major role here. Undoubtedly, there is agreement on particular things that Cairo will do. Sanaa and President Salih welcome this. President Salih hopes the credit for ending the crisis will go to Cairo.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important things Egypt will do to end this crisis? We have always hoped that we would see Yemeni unity take its natural and realistic course as a model for comprehensive Arab unity.

[Basindwah] I cannot reveal much; we must take the advice of our noble prophet, may God's peace be upon him, especially in this blessed month of Ramadan, to be secretive when we go about our businesses. I can tell you that Cairo has a vision, a method to resolve the crisis. I believe this vision is reasonable and Cairo must work with the parties to the conflict to implement its proposals. Everybody must realize that the Yemenis' relations with each other are not relations between two peoples or two countries. We in Yemen are one Arab Muslim people, one Arab Muslim country.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are Egypt's ideas on this concept?

[Basindwah] Cairo believes the Pledge and Accord Document is the basis for heading toward ending the crisis. As long as everyone clings to the Document, we need only discuss the mechanisms of how to implement it. Undoubtedly, the implementation will take place within the framework of the Constitution.

[Abu-al-Majd] But, Minister, the vice president and president were supposed to return to Sanaa after signing the document in the Jordanian capital, Amman. This did not happen and military clashes took place. Why did the crisis escalate and what do you believe is the solution?

[Basindwah] Of course, the president, vice president, and the entire government were supposed to return to Sanaa after the Document was signed in Amman on 20 February. But we all know what happened. The signing was accompanied by military escalation. Let us be optimistic and hope that 'Id al-Fitr will introduce goodwill for Yemen and the Arab and Islamic nations as well as for the whole world.

[Abu-al-Majd] But the Socialist Party, Minister, has some demands, such as arresting those who assassinated some of its leaders and other things. Is the People's Congress ready to meet these demands?

[Basindwah] I cannot speak for the People's Congress because I am not a member. I belong to no party. I am independent, I repeat, independent, and I say this very frankly. But I also say that we, as government officials, need to cooperate to arrest all those who are proven to have been involved in the assassination operations. This is a group responsibility that we must all shoulder. None of us should attempt to weasel out of it. Anyone who tries to shy away from this responsibility must be punished and held accountable for doing so.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, are there any mediators other than Cairo involved in trying to resolve the crisis?

[Basindwah] There is a lot of mediation and from various sides but the more acceptable mediation comes from the brothers.

[Abu-al-Majd] Is there any mediation from outside the Arab world?

[Basindwah] Of course, some friends who are not Arabs are using their good offices continuously to reduce the tension. But there is no mediation in the sense of sitting round a table to discuss how to get out of the crisis.

[Abu-al-Majd] Can you give us some examples of these mediating countries from outside the Arab world?

[Basindwah] Of course, heading these countries is the friendly United States.

[Abu-al-Majd] Is this mediation acceptable to both sides?

[Basindwah] Both sides accept this mediation. There are also the good offices of the European Union. And there are the constructive and objective efforts or positions of Japan, Russia, China, and many friendly countries.

[Basindwah] But what, for the Yemeni people, is the closest mediation that could realize a final solution to the crisis?

[Basindwah] The mediation of the brothers, primarily Egypt.

Egyptian Mediation Said of 'Considerable Importance'

PM1103104194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Mar 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah in London and Hammud Munsir and Naji al-Harazi in Sanaa: "Sanaa Seeking Egyptian Role to Resolve Yemeni Crisis; the General People's Congress and the Reform Grouping Consider Excluding the Socialist Party From the Government"]

[Excerpt] Political circles in the Yemeni capital see President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Cairo yesterday evening "as a move reflecting Yemeni interest in an Egyptian role to end the political crisis between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] which has become a complicated problem between the north and the south and a threat to Yemen's unity."

Sources say that the Egyptian role is of considerable importance at this stage because "it gives the Gulf states some kind of reassurance that the Jordanian mediation could not provide."

A senior source in the GPC, which is led by the Yemeni president, has stated that "there are increasing notions about secession among the southern brothers and I do not know whether or not that is based on any specific calculations." He said that local calculations have become more complex since the introduction of the system of political pluralism, and that is what "the secessionist desires" would face, unlike foreign calculations "which are based on a desire to calm the situation and avoid a military explosion in Yemen, regardless of whether or not secession occurs."

The GPC official played down the significance of what went on during a joint meeting of the lederships of the GPC and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], part of which was attended by the president before leaving for Cairo. The meeting was said to have discussed more coordination between the GPC and the YRG with emerging inclinations to terminate the ruling coalition in Yemen with in order to exclude the YSP from government. Some of the conferees also called for intervention to settle the crisis by military means.

The GPC official said that "discussions which take place in the absence of the president are of no great importance because no decisions are made and no clear policies are decided in such discussions."

He added that "decisions have already been made on these matters and the position will be determined in the light of the solution which might result from the current attempts to resolve the crisis."

He said that "the YSP's notions about secession are perhaps meant to pave the way for a federal solution."

Meanwhile, the son and nephew of Yemeni Agriculture Minister Shaykh Sadiq Amin Abu-Ras have been released as a result of efforts made by Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Naji al-Ruwayshan, chief of the al-Yamaniyah al-'Ulya tribe in Khawlan. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Says Kurdistan To Return 'Shortly'

JN1003185394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, the Kurdish autonomy institutions held a celebration today at the National Theater on the 24th anniversary of the historic 11 March Statement. The celebration was held under the slogan "Arabs and Kurds: One Hand in Defense of Great Iraq."

Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and representative of the president of the republic, delivered a speech at the celebration. At the outset, he conveyed greetings from leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, to the attendees, wishing them continued success.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: On this day, 24 years ago, the glorious 17-30 July revolution made an important national achievement by issuing the historic 11 March Statement to resolve the Kurdish question peacefully and democratically. This solution was meant to serve as a strong and broad basis for Iraqi national unity between Arabs and Kurds. The solution was also an embodiment of the true principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the policy of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, as well as its true, sincere belief in the legitimate rights of other ethnic groups under the greater umbrella of Iraq and the unity of its land and people.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: The Iraqis—Arabs and Kurds—warmly welcomed the historic 11 March statement. They were aware of the great objectives and noble meanings behind this statement of national unity. The leader president put an end to the fighting among brothers, the sons of one nation. On the achievement of the great objectives of the 11 March Statement, people all over Iraq held big celebrations, from the farthest village in southern Iraq to the farthest village in northern Iraq. Men and women, youth and children, all took part in these celebrations to express their true joy over this great victory by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him.

He went on: In the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah [war with Iran], our Kurdish people were the faithful guards and brave defenders of their great Iraq in the north, center, and south, whether with the Armed Forces or the sectors of the People's Army. During the war, the Kurdish people acted as an impregnable bulwark in the face of the Iranian aggressors and the agents who tried more than once to mislead them, divest them of their true Iraqi character, and urge them to change their strong allegiance to the unified, independent Iraq of Arabs and Kurds. Also, during the immortal Mother of Battles, the sons of our Kurdish people demonstrated an honorable stand, just like the free Iraqis, by holding fast in the face of a fierce 30-state aggression. They also resisted tonnes of bombs and missiles dropped and fired by the aggressors against their installations, schools, homes, and mosques. The 30-state coalition and its agents were alarmed by this great Iraqi cohesion. Thus, they initiated a second episode of treason and treachery, assigning it to small agents, who inherited treason and agentry from their fathers, the large agents. They tried to mislead the sons of our Kurdish people by using slogans whose falsity became clearer day after day. The agents sought, with U.S., French, and British spears, to divide Iraq and separate its north from its center and south. Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, the two traitors, and their gangs donated the land of our beloved north to serve as a den for Zionists, Americans, and their allies, paying no heed to their oppression of our Kurdish people, who adhere to their revolutionary leadership and who live under the shade of Iraq's big umbrella and the 17-30 July revolution. The Kurdish people have known the sweet taste of the revolution and reaped its fruits and gains; primarily peace, security, and prosperity.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: After many meetings, with flexibility and goodwill to resolve problems through constructive dialogue based on full national unity, the leadership is now convinced that the leaders of those cliques are agents of the foreigner and care only about their personal interests and those of their masters. Those agents are using the Kurdish question to achieve gains. They cannot live in peace, security, and national unity because they have grown accustomed to living on the crumbs and leftovers of foreigners. They have also grown accustomed to a life of humiliation, subservience, and slavery to satisfy the colonialist policy of their masters and their rotten personal whims that reject dignity, freedom, and national unity.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted: Our great Kurdish people, who have, since time immemorial, adhered to Iraq—in terms of its land, people, history, civilization, and brotherhood with the Arabs of Iraq—will rise and rebel against this agent clique. The 36th parallel will be shattered by the Kurds of Iraq, just as the Arabs of Iraq shattered the 32d parallel. All attempts at temptation and deception will not fool the sons of our Kurdish people, who are suffering under foreign occupation, the domination of agent cliques, poverty, hunger, and lack of security.

Taha Yasin Ramadan concluded: All methods of deception, falsification, and allegations are short lived, no matter how long they persist. All these methods will be exposed as the days go by. Our beloved north will return shortly to the mother homeland and the greater umbrella. National unity will be restored to great Iraq, in terms of the land and people, from its north to its south. The policies of agentry, treason, and subservience will be defeated so Iraqis will continue to live under the aegis of the wise, prudent leadership of the symbol leader, Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him. Tomorrow is not far off for those awaiting it. Glad tidings for those who patiently persevere. [Koranic verse]

Afterward, Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, made a speech in which he asserted that the Kurdish

people will intensify their struggle to return to the state of law and order, which is lacking under the agent, sabotage cliques sitting in the lap of their foreign masters. Those cliques have turned the Kurdistan paradise into a hell of death and destruction.

Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi, secretary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, also made a speech. He underlined the current looting of resources and the unjust control of the Kurdish people's means of livelihood in the Kurdistan region. This is happening under false slogans that do not deceive our Kurdish people and honorable figures worldwide. He said the actions of the agent, traitorous cliques have exposed their intentions and shown their true colors and their miserable situation.

Afterward, Majid Rashid al-Zibari, secretary of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party, made a speech. He said the autonomy of the Kurdistan region and the national rights achieved for the Kurdish people are among the major reasons for the plots of hostile, evil forces, which persistently seek to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and the unity of its people and pure land.

The celebration was attended by comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Ninawa and Dahuk organizations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; as well as the council's secretaries general; several members of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; and a large audience.

Talabani Visits Coalition Forces Office in Zakho

NC1003184194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], yesterday afternoon visited the coalition forces coordination office in Zakho. Talabani was accompanied by Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, member of the PUK Political Bureau; (Shaykh al-Hiwazi), alternate member of the Steering Committee; and (Shart al-Qazzaz), representative of the PUK in Ankara. The discussion during the visit dealt with the Iraqi regime's recent military movements near the border area of the Kurdistan region. The brother secretary general arrived in Dahuk yesterday evening. Brother Talabani returned to liberated Kurdistan the day before yesterday following a visit to Syria to attend the memorial service marking the 40th day since the death of Basil al-Asad, son of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He met there with a number of Syrian officials and representatives of the national and Islamic forces in the Iraqi opposition based in Syria.

Kurdistan Party Urges Masses To Step Up 'Resistance'

JN1003160694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party has appealed to the Kurdish masses in Kurdistan to step up resistance against the agent cliques and foreign occupation. It urged them to make sacrifices for the honor of Iraqis and for Kurdistan to regain its freedom, joy, and national allegiance.

In a statement issued by the party's political bureau on the 24th anniversary of the 11 March Statement of 1970 and the 20th anniversary of issuing the autonomy law in 1974, the party said the evil criminals—the brokers of world politics—are not satisfied with the war of annihilation they waged against our Kurdish people. Thus, they have gone a step further by stealing the property of the Kurdish masses, smuggling this property to Iran, and selling it in their own interest. Those evil criminals are not satisfied with undermining Kurdish national rights and sabotaging the autonomy institutions. Thus, they have embarked on a new mockery to split in half power centers, institutions, and interests.

The party hailed the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the hero of liberation and engineer of autonomy. It praised President Saddam Husayn's courageous stand in the face of all the vile plots being hatched against our Iraqi people.

BABIL Accuses President Clinton of 'Lying' to Congress

JN0903150694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—BABIL accused U.S. President Bill Clinton of lying in his message to Congress on his decision to renew the economic embargo on Iraq under the pretext that Iraq did not implement Security Council resolutions.

In an article today, the newspaper said that the U.S. President and the Congress are fully aware that all the reports of the UN Special Commission have emphasized that Iraq has met all of the requirements in the Security Council resolutions.

The paper added: This Iraqi commitment should urge the Security Council to adhere to its own commitments regarding the lifting of the embargo on Iraqi oil exports. It said: Ignoring this fact exposes the evil intentions aimed at infringing on Iraq's legitimate right and the determination to perpetuate the unjust siege against Iraq without regard to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The newspaper said that further criminal behavior in the service of Zionism and backwardness clearly shows the extent of the hatred towards Iraq, which is due only to Iraq's defense of its freedom and independent decision-making.

The newspaper emphasized that the successive pretexts the evil ones present with the aim of maintaining the siege will soon be refuted and exposed to the world, and even to many permanent Security Council members. The newspaper said faithful and patient Iraq will never accept this evil U.S. behavior, and will not bow to the continuation of injustice it faces.

BABIL concluded by recalling that Iraq has fulfilled the commitments imposed on it according to the Security Council resolutions, and the council should, in turn, fulfill its commitments in accordance with the same resolutions. The Security Council should not bow to the U.S. terrorism that has gone beyond all reasonable limits and become a sword threatening free peoples everywhere and even the big powers.

UNSCOM Statement Refuting Marshland Charges Analyzed

JN0803163494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column: "The Statement Which Exposed Their Lies" by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah]

[Excerpts] The Security Council's UN Special Commission [UNSCOM] issued a statement two days ago in which it refuted widespread claims about the Iraqi use of chemical weapons in the Marshlands, saying they were false. The commission's denial has come after investigations, field visits, and laboratory tests in London, Paris, and Washington have disproved these claims, which were lodged in a UN complaint earlier.

Although we knew the aims and motives of these lies right from the start and said they were cheap lies intended to disturb Iraq, justify the continuation of the blockade, and find an excuse for further interference in Iraq's internal affairs in the name of human rights, the UNSCOM statement has confirmed how false and malicious were the reports submitted by Max Van der Stoel [UN human rights official for Iraq]. The reports were packed with lies and made unwarranted proposals about appointing observers and setting up committees to protect what was termed human rights in the marshlands. This Dutchman, who made endless accusations and held news conferences everywhere to create an uproar about alleged terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, was certified to be reckless and nonobjective by his own classmate, UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, even before we issued our own testimony on him. In fact, the statement released by UNSCOM, which sponsored the allegations and set up committees that spent a great deal of time on them, has come at this time to put an end to this cheap lie and to serve as a lesson for Van der Stoel and his backers. [passage omitted]

The UNSCOM statement is testimony for Iraq and a slap in the face for its enemies. It has exposed their slander. This statement has come to reveal the truth and to expose those who spread false allegations. It now behooves the commission to also go deep into the flood of lies that preceded this one, whose aims have now been exposed.

Yes, the main problem now hampering the actions that must be taken by the UN Security Council are the lies and allegations by certain regional quarters and aggressor states. They release them from time to time, and sometimes deny them almost overnight, despited the fact that Iraq has affirmed its commitment to and cooperation with implementing UN Security Council Resolution 687, especially since the motives of those quarters are not secret to anyone. What we want to say is that the objective efforts to do justice to Iraq, must now find their true course toward common positive action to remove the injustices done to Iraq.

Rabin, Peres Express 'Doubts' Over Russian Initiative

TA1003191294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Israel has been informed that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev intends to arrive here on 12 March. When he arrives Foreign Minister Kozyrev will hear Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' reservations about Russia's latest initiatives with regard to the peace process. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Israel's political leadership would gladly forgo Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's unexpected visit. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres have both officially rejected the initiative, proposed one week ago by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivanov, to reconvene an international conference or send a Russian official on a shuttle mission to the Middle East. That is why they were surprised by this afternoon's report.

[Rabin] I heard about it on the radio. The deputy foreign minister also made this proposal. We have no intention of holding a second Madrid conference. We have no intention of permitting any international presence beyond what was agreed upon in the Declaration of Principles—and I am clearly referring to a nonmilitary international presence in the Gaza Strip and Jericho after agreement is reached with the Palestinians on the Gaza-Jericho First proposal, and following or during the implementation of the agreement.

[Raz] Prime Minister Rabin expressed concern about the very future of the political process in light of Russia's desire to become more involved without prior coordination with the United States.

[Rabin] I prefer that things continue the way they have been handled up till now. I hope this step will not complicate the chances of renewing the peace negotiations both with the Palestinians and with the relevant Arab states. At any rate, we will graciously receive any visitor here but at the same time unequivocally explain our position.

[Raz] Israel's position will also be expressed by Foreign Minister Peres, who is annoyed by the Russian attempt to reconvene the Madrid conference.

[Peres] I do not understand why. First of all, we have to implement what has already been agreed upon. The Middle East cannot constantly be inundated with declarations. It is time to take actual steps.

[Raz] So this proposal is unacceptable to Israel?

[Peres] We said that it does not strike us as particurlarly constructive.

[Raz] When he arrives on Saturday, Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev will be apprised of the Israeli leadership's reservations and doubts with regard to his proposal. [end recording]

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Arrives

TA1103112494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Israel a short time ago and will soon confer with Foreign Minister Peres and then with Prime Minister Rabin.

French Defense Minister Arrives on Official Visit

TA0903201294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] French Defense Minister Francois Leotard arrived here tonight for an official visit. He was received at the airport by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that he will be received with full military honors at the Defense Ministry tomorrow and then visit an Air Force base. During his visit, Leotard will meet with senior Army officers and tour military industries.

Accord on Military Technologies Signed

TA1003093894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] This morning, Israel and France signed an agreement on cooperation in research and development of military technologies. The agreement was signed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and French Defense Minister Francois Leotard. The defense establishment received Mr. Leotard with a full-fledged military ceremony. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the prime minister reviewed the difficulties in the political negotiations in the wake of the massacre in Hebron. The visiting minister is due to confer with President 'Ezer Weizman, tour industrial plants, and meet with a group of Palestinians headed by Faysal al-Husayni.

Finance Minister Meets With Hungary's Szabo

TA1103120494 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Ya'ir Meydan]

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat met with his Hungarian counterpart, Ivan Szabo, yesterday. The two men discussed strengthening commercial ties between the two countries; the activities of Israeli companies in Hungary; Israel's participation in Expo 96, which will take place in Budapest; and the return of property to the relatives of Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Szabo promised on behalf of his government to promote legal and legislative efforts in this regard.

Peres Views al-Asad-Darawshah Meeting, Remarks

TA1003062194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zissowitz] Let us talk about the Syrian track of the peace talks, which has not been affected—or has been less affected—by the Hebron massacre. Did you read the minutes of the meeting between Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday?

[Peres] Yes.

[Zissowitz] Did you detect any new messages?

[Peres] No, I just detected softer language. It is interesting to note that this was a meeting between the Syrian president and Israeli representatives, although they did not enter the country with their Israeli passports and did not highlight the fact that they are Israelis and members of the Knesset. This, too, is one of the signs of the times.

You know, we have long outgrown the era of charades, of hiding, disguising, and pretending. What good is it? That, however, seems to be the way of the world up north.

[Zissowitz] In the meeting, President al-Asad reiterated his formula of full peace in exchange for full withdrawal. Is Israel prepared to accept such a formula?

[Peres] First of all, I do not know what full peace is. When he talks about full peace, what is it filled with? For example, he did not undertake to fill it with diplomatic representations, commercial ties, and open borders. So what does full mean?

[Zissowitz] Did you hear the utterances of MK's Talib al-Sani' and Darawshah during a tour of the Golan Heights and in other meetings?

[Peres] I think they are both MK's, and whatever their criticism of Israel is, they should voice it in Jerusalem rather than in al-Qunaytirah. In my opinion, both good manners and logic call for highlighting the positive and the things we have in common.

[Zissowitz] Do Israeli MK's who talk on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights about the terrible oppression of the Palestinians and who say that the lot of Israel's Arabs is worse than that of Syria's Jews truly represent Israeli Arabs?

[Peres] I do not believe that. I do not recall the Syrian Parliament ever having had a Jewish member. As you know, every Syrian Jew may come to Israel, but can every Israeli Arab go to Syria? We all know that not even all Arabs are allowed in, but only people who belong to a certain party, group, and belief. Even then, they are not issued passports or allowed to publicize their identity. In this respect, if you were to compare the Israeli delegation's visit to Syria with visits to Israel by foreign delegations to meet with Arabs and others, the difference would immediately strike you. [passage omitted]

Darawshah Delegation Returns From Damascus

TA1103094594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Israeli Arab delegation returned from Damascus today. At the airport, Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah said that the atmosphere in Syria is good and its leaders are prepared for full peace with the State of Israel. President al-Asad and Foreign Minister al-Shar' stressed that Syria is ready for full peace in return for full withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Kahana Hay Leader Jailed After Conviction

TA1003150694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The Hadera Magistrate's Court sentenced Binyamin Kahana, the leader of the Kahana Hay movement, to nine months in prison after convicting him of assaulting a policeman and violating an injunction that was issued against him.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that the incident took place approximately two years ago during a demonstration in Umm al-Fahm. Binyamin Kahana was placed under arrest and jailed immediately after today's hearing.

Indictments Filed Against 3 for Supporting Massacre

TA1103054794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Indictments have been filed in the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court against three Israelis who are accused of publicly supporting the Hebron massacre and expressing solidarity with Barukh Goldstein. The three are Shmu'el Ben-Yishay, Amnon Tadmor, and Arye Ben-Yosef. They are charged with violating the antiterrorism act. Shmu'el Ben-Yishay has already been under administrative detention for a week, and the High Court of Justice yesterday discussed a petition against the move.

Settlers' Videocassette Recommends Civil Revolt

TA1003161594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The distress of Judaea and Samaria settlers is being handled by the Action Committee for the Annulment of the Autonomy Plan, which is currently disseminating a videocassette encouraging civil revolt. The tape

recommends evading military service and not paying taxes as a means of opposing the government's policy. Yiftah El'azar reports:

The hero of the videocassette is an imaginary character called Ron Segev, a tank brigade commander, and deals with his misgivings under the autonomy. Segev is detained by a joint patrol of the Palestinian police and the Israeli Border Police while demonstrating against Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in East Jerusalem. Segev decides to become a prisoner of conscience and inspires others to follow in his footsteps. Elyaqim Ha'etzni, head of the action committee, hopes that in real life Israelis will turn to civil revolt.

[Begin Ha'etzni recording] It is a path of non-violence aimed at opposing a regime which almost clandestinely—we call it the Oslo underground—surprised and hoodwinked the nation, and with the help of pro-PLO votes in the Knesset, is taking the country away from the people. It is a path of nonviolence. [end recording]

The cassette contains the names of right-wing intellectuals, such as Professor Yisra'el Eldad and Prof. Hilel Weiss, as well as senior military commanders in the reserves, who support the action. Among the measures recommended are dodging military reserve duty and evading the payment of taxes. Ha'etzni said it is important to learn how to carry out civil revolt in order to prevent a repetition of actions like that of Barukh Goldstein, who perpetrated the Hebron massacre.

Update on 9 Mar Incidents in Territories

TA1003150394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Mar 94 p A4

[Report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Palestinian sources yesterday reported 31 local residents wounded in incidents with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip. According to their report, there were incidents in Khan Yunus, Jabalyah, and al-Shati'.

The IDF spokesman for the Southern Command did not report any casualties among Arab residents.

There were several events in the West Bank: An Israeli civilian was hurt in a stoning incident and two Arab residents were injured in a clash with IDF soldiers.

An IDF soldier sustained a slight head injury when hit by a stone in Rafah. The soldier received medical treatment and was sent back to his unit.

The security forces and the IDF are maintaining very high alert in anticipation of terrorist attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], mainly suicide attacks.

Security has been augmented and alert declared also in the Qatif Bloc settlements following an 8 March Hamas leaflet announcing a five-stage action plan against settlers. [passage omitted]

An Israeli civilian was yesterday wounded in the head when his car was stoned as he was driving on the Bi'r Nabala-al-Rajib road in the Ramallah District. After receiving treatment from an Army doctor who was summoned to the site, he was evacuated to a Jerusalem hospital.

In downtown Ramallah, two local residents were slightly wounded while hurling stones at Border Police. In an attempt to capture the stone throwers, the policemen fired rubber bullets. The casualties were evacuated to the central hospital in Ramallah and then sent home.

An Israeli girl was slightly injured by shattered glass when the car in which was she riding was pelted with stones near Silat al-Zahr in the vicinity of Janin. The child was evacuated to the Homesh settlement, treated, and released. The IDF launched searches.

The Hayarqon District Police launched an investigation after leaflets calling for murdering soldiers and settlers were disseminated in various locations in Tel Aviv. The leaflets, handwritten in Hebrew and Arabic, were placed in mailboxes early Wednesday morning.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 10 March adds that "in Rafah, the Army last night captured a wanted terrorist in what was described as an initiated action," and "a firebomb was thrown at an Egged bus at al-Jalazun, but caused no injuries or damage."]

10 Mar, Other Incidents Detailed

TA1103072694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The curfew on the territories begins its third week today. Yesterday was the fifth day of violent incidents in the Gaza Strip. A 15-year-old youth was killed and some 20 people were wounded, and two fugitives were captured in a special operation yesterday. Nisim Qeynan reports:

For a week, there have been serious daily incidents in the Gaza Strip. A wide-ranging operation to capture fugitives was conducted in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp. A curfew was clamped on the camp, and the security forces operated in a highly populated area to capture two wanted men, Hasan Abu-Darmah and Zayid Hasinat, 21, belonging to the Fatah Hawks, and four others who sheltered them. Palestinians rioted to disturb the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] efforts to apprehend the fugitives. At one stage, the rioters shot at the soldiers. One was slightly wounded, and another was hit by stones. The soldiers fired at the rioting mob, killing a 15-year-old youth.

During the searches for the wanted men, antitank missiles were fired at several houses in which fugitives were suspected to be hiding, and the buildings sustained serious damage. In additional searches in the area, many weapons were found. The two detained fugitives are suspected of firing at security forces in Dayr al-Balah.

In other locations, 15-20 people were wounded in rioting in the Jabalyah refugee camp, al-Shati', Rafah, and Khan Yunus, according to Palestinian sources. During the incidents in Gaza, a border policeman was slightly wounded when hit by stones and was taken to the hospital.

The IDF is on an especially high alert on Fridays. The curfew imposed on many areas will be lifted for two hours to enable the residents to stock up on food. The closure continues until decided otherwise.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 11 March adds details on incidents at other locations in the territories yesterday. "In Tulkarm, an Israeli truck driver was lightly hurt from glass fragments in a stone-throwing attack when his windshield was shattered, and in Hebron, a shock grenade was hurled at an Army patrol. The grenade went off. No one was hurt and no damage was caused."]

Teenager Killed; Soldier, 17 Wounded in Territories

TA1003140994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Musa Badr Darwish, 15, was shot dead by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in Dayr al-Balah today. Three locals were wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp during the dispersal of a riot.

An Israeli soldier was wounded in the head by a rock during the riots in downtown Hebron. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the riots occurred during an interval in the curfew announced by the authorities to enable the inhabitants to stock up on food. Palestinian sources claim that 14 locals were wounded today in the city.

Police Arrest Man for Not Handing Over Weapon

TA1003162694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The Judaea District police have arrested Avraham Sheier, a resident of Qiryat Arba', who refused to obey an injunction ordering him to turn in his weapon. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the police today confiscated the weapon of another Qiryat Arba' resident.

Government, PLO Official on Peace Process

BR1103104394 Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA in Italian 16 Mar 94 pp 32, 33, 35

[Telephone interview with Government Spokesman Raphael Gamzou [name as published], in Jerusalem, and PLO representative to Rome Nimr Hammad, in Rome, by Franca Zambonini; date not given: "The Torn Peace"—first two paragraphs are FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA introduction]

[Text] That thin fabric that Israel and the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] had begun weaving six months ago has been torn in a week of bloodshed. In Hebron, a Jew has massacred dozens of Palestinian Arabs praying in the mosque, in Beirut, Lebanese Christians have been butchered during a church service, and in New York, a Lebanese has opened fire on orthodox Jewish students, two of whom are at death's door. Meanwhile, a sequence of further deaths in the occupied territories, which are once again in revolt, is adding, drop by drop, to the trail of blood. Agreements, negotiations, and expectations have gone by the board, reason and history have retreated in the face of raging fanatism. Does peace remain an impossible dream?

Advisor Raphael Gamzou, spokesman for the Israeli Government, and Nimr Hammad, the Palestinian representative in Italy, answered this question from, respectively, Jerusalem and Rome.

[Gamzou] In the long term, I am optimistic. All the parties concerned know full well that there are no alternatives. Negotiation remains the only way open. Breaking off means rewarding the extremists.

[Hammad] The massacres have opened people's eyes to reality. The front is everybody's now. The future of the peace is in the hands of the Israeli government. Six months have gone by since that 13 September when the Washington agreements were signed, and nothing has changed. All we have seen is delays in their application. If the Hebron massacre induces Prime Minister Rabin to be intransigent with the settlers and persuades him to withdraw them from the settlements, there will be greater grounds for optimism. But if Rabin thinks that the PLO has no choice but to negotiate at all costs, he is making a mistake and giving greater grounds for pessimism.

[Zambonini] Is it feasible to disarm the settlers completely, as the PLO has demanded as the first condition for resuming the negotiations?

[Gamzou] Total disarmament is impossible and unacceptable for us, even after the Hebron massacre, which has filled us with grief and shame. Every day brings acts of terrorism on the part of the Islamic extremist of the Hamas movement, and the settlers must be in a position to defend themselves. But the government has already begun disarming the hard core of fanatical Jews and it has ordered their expulsion from the territories and the administrative arrest of the leaders of the extremist movements, such as the Kakh.

[Hammad] The measures adopted by Rabin are a cosmetic operation that does nothing to treat the real sickness that the settlements represent. What does disarming only the extremists mean? All the settlers are extremists, because their movement has a precise ideology: that of Eretz Yisrael [name as published], the Land of Israel that they consider theirs by divine right. Rabin must understand that this ambiguity is playing into the hands of the extremist fanatics. It is true that

Rabin has freed 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. But why did he wait so long? Shall we need another massacre before he takes another step forward?

[Zambonini] PLO Chairman 'Arafat has called for an armed international force to be sent in to protect the Palestinians. The government of Israel has said no. Was it right or wrong to do so?

[Hammad] It was very wrong. We called for an armed international force because the Israeli army gives us no guarantee of protection. Quite the contrary. Israeli soldiers have killed more than 20 Palestinian demonstrators over the last week. Even before the Madrid talks that opened the way for the peace negotiations two years ago, the European Community had proposed an international presence in the cities, the villages, and the Palestinian refugee camps, accompanied by the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the occupied territories. The proposal was accepted neither by Israel nor by the United States. These rigid stances are tombstones for peace.

[Gamzou] The Israeli Government was right to say no. The best way ahead is direct negotiation between ourselves and the PLO, without foreign interference. We had already reached an understanding on the first part of the Oslo Agreement, on autonomy for the Gaza and Jericho areas. But then the psychopath from Hebron ruined everything. Now we have an explosion of Palestinian rage, which is quite understandable. We are putting our money on American mediation and the multilateral negotiations that have the task of building the new Middle East. Article 3(d) of the supplementary protocol to the Oslo Agreement provides for a temporary international presence in the Gaza and Jericho areas to supervise the implementation of the agreements. This article may help us find a compromise between the PLO's requirements and our own. I would not rule out an agreement on a certain nonmilitary international presence, but it must remain within the context of the negotiations between the PLO and ourselves.

[Zambonini] Have the tragic events of the last few days weakened 'Arafat's position?

[Gamzou] Definitely, just as they have weakened all those who support him in his decision in favor of dialogue. But our government, too, is having difficulty with public opinion, because the Palestinian terrorist attacks have continued even after the recognition of the PLO and since the start of the negotiations. There has been a succession of victims. Nevertheless, we have said that we shall carry on with the negotiations as if there were no terrorism, and we shall continue fighting terrorism as if there were no negotiations.

[Hammad] The whole of the PLO has been weakened. After the signing in Washington, the opinion polls showed 68 percent of Palestinians in favor of the agreements. Today I am not sure we would reach 50 percent. We have regressed to a worse position than before. The lay portion of the Palestinian movement, which was pursuing the political solution of "two peoples, two states," has failed to get results, and the hope of peace has thus become more remote.

[Zambonini] What is the alternative?

[Gamzou] There is no alternative to the negotiations. We have learnt in the last few days what great damage a minute fraction of extremists can do to the peace process. In the Knesset last week, all the parties, from the Right to the Left, voted the same motion condemning all forms of extremism is the strongest terms. Such great unanimity had never been seen before in our parliament. This is a sign that, regardless of political divisions, the overwhelming majority of Israeli society is united in the quest for peace.

[Hammad] The alternative is a tragic one. The Middle East is entering a new phase in which anyone can grow a fundamentalist's beard and launch a new war. Rabin does not have the strength to dismantle the settlements, claiming that it would provoke a civil war. In this way, he stands firm on his principles and wants to force the PLO to accept them, while the settlers can destroy what we are laboriously building up to create a climate of mutual confidence. We are stuck in a blind alley, while the extremists have the upper hand.

Poll: Rabin Public's Choice for Prime Minister

TA1103115794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah posed the following question: In your opinion, who is best suited to be prime minister today?

Yitzhaq Rabin—44 percent; Binyamin Netanyahu—22 percent; Refa'el Eytan—12 percent; none of them—20 percent; did not reply—2 percent.

The poll was conducted on 9 March among 507 respondents who constitute a representative sample of the adult population of Israel. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Weekly on Purposes of King's Saudi Pilgrimage

JN1003134794 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] During his visit to the tomb of his great grandfather Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, in Medina, and during his circumambulation in Mecca, His Majesty King Husayn reminded the Islamic nation on the night of al-Qadr [the night the koran was revealed] of the importance of Islamic and Arab solidarity against the ferocious onslaught against Muslims and Arabs. King Husayn's gesture is not new; it stems from the continuous role the Hashemites have played in unifying the Arabs and Muslims throughout the ages. It also indicates that this blessed month is the month of communication, amity, and love among the Muslims in all their countries. In addition to performing the minor pilgrimage, the king's visit to Mecca and Medina sought to intensify Islamic and Arab efforts, which stem from the Hashemites' struggle in national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian Jordan, to unite in rank, word, and position. Jordan rose above the pan-Arab wounds to heal the rift which afflicted the Arab homeland after the Gulf war for the sake of restoring Arab solidarity and reactivating joint Arab action that can confront the serious challenges threatening the Arab and Islamic nation.

U.S. Blamed for Saudi 'Snub' of King Husayn

NC1103082794 Paris AFP in English 0157 GMT 11 Mar 94

[by Randa Habib]

[Text] Amman, March 11 (AFP)—Jordanian leaders blamed the United States Thursday [10 March] for prompting Saudi King Fahd to snub King Husayn during a trip to Mecca, charging that Washington was trying to force Jordan into signing a peace deal with Israel.

They warned that Saudi Arabia's cold reception could push Jordan further towards Syria—Israel's arch Arab foe.

King Fahd cold-shouldered the Jordanian monarch during his visit, ignoring the opportunity for a reconciliation meeting.

It was King Husayn's first trip to Saudi since July 1990, just before the Gulf crisis erupted. But he cut short his visit Wednesday when he was ignored by Saudi authorities.

Relations between the two countries soured during the Gulf crisis when Riyadh accused Amman of backing Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, whose forces had invaded and occupied Kuwait.

Although ties with Saudi Arabia have traditionally been complicated because of old rivalries between the two ruling families, Jordan has found itself increasingly isolated in the rest of Arab world since the end of the war.

Officially, Jordanian authorities played down the Saudi trip, saying the only purpose had been the king's pilgrimage.

But privately a senior Jordanian official commented: "There was a clear desire by the Saudis to humiliate not only the Hashemite family...but also the Jordanian Government."

And although the snub clearly came from Riyadh, Jordanian leaders say it was prompted by the United States, keen to step up pressure on Amman to sign a peace accord with Israel.

Israel and Jordan signed a common peace agenda in Washington on September 14—a day after the historic Israeli-PLO autonomy accord was agreed—to serve as a framework for future talks between the two countries.

But several sticking points remain, notably border demarcations, water sharing rights and the issue of the Palestinian refugees who fled to Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

In January King Husayn held talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton during a visit to Washington discussing Jordan's debt to the United States, the side-effects of the UN-imposed embargo on Iraq for Jordan and prospects for restoring links with Saudi Arabia.

"Sign a peace treaty with Israel and all these issues will be sorted out," a senior Jordanian official, who asked to remain anonymous, quoted the U.S. President as saying.

But King Husayn has said he is anxious to avoid protracted negotiations, which have marked the Israeli-PLO relationship. The dialogue has been suspended since the February 25 Hebron mosque massacre.

Jordan remains unwelcome in other Gulf states apart from Oman and Qatar. Jordanian officials announced Thursday that King Husayn is to visit Qatar for the first time since February 20. An unconfirmed report said the visit would take place on March 20.

Relations with Egypt are also cool and Amman's estrangement from the Palestine Liberation Organisation was revealed when PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chose not to tell Amman of the secret talks with Israel which led to September's accord.

Officials say that as a result of Jordan's isolation it is being pushed closer towards Syria, in a move bound to worry U.S. leaders.

But in Jordanian political circles the message Thursday was that following the Saudi snub, King Husayn has even less reason to make conciliatory moves towards Israel.

King Husayn To Visit Qatar 20 Mar

JN1003082694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—QNA—An informed source in Amman has confirmed that that His Majesty King Husayn will visit fraternal Qatar on 20 March.

The source told a Qatari news agency correspondent that his majesty will discuss with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, ways of bolstering fraternal ties within the single Arab family and promoting Arab solidarity. They will also discuss Arab, regional, and international issues.

This visit signifies the continuing development of fraternal ties between the two countries.

Government Orders 10 Percent Spending Cut

JN0803113894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 07 Mar 94, p 7

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The government was underlining the need for prudence in the public sector while dealing with taxpayers' money by ordering a flat 10 per cent cut in all "working expenditures" of all ministries and departments, Finance Minister Sami Gammuh said Monday [7 March].

Mr. Gammuh, explaining a Prime Ministry order issued earlier this week, said the government would use the savings from the operational budgets of the ministries and departments to improve public services and productive sectors of the economy.

The minister said the government was hoping to save up to JD 20 million through the ordered reductions in spending in all areas of current expenditure—water, electricity, transport, communications, stationery, etc.

However, he indicated that JD 20 million was not an absolute figure.

More importantly, he said, "we want to raise the awareness of everybody concerned while dealing with public funds of need to be careful and prudent."

"Everyone has to ensure that resources are spent in the right channel with optimum benefits to serve the purpose for which they are allocated," he told the JORDAN TIMES.

Mr. Gammuh said the move was also intended as a message to "all concerned," including ministers and senior decision-making officials at various departments that "there is a need for better management of economy" and that they should exercise control.

"Wastage has to be reduced and better utilisation of funds and cost-effectiveness have to be achieved in all government ministries and departments," he said.

"We know this is difficult, in view of the fact that the (1994) budget is already tight," Mr. Gammuh said. "But there is no alternative if we were to advance towards self-reliance and indpendence from external assistance."

The JD 1.487 billion fiscal budget for 1994 projects a shortfall of JD 158 million, expected to be addressed by external assistance.

The "operational budgets" covered under the government measures are estimated at nearly JD 200 million for 1994.

Dr. Fahid al-Fanik, an economist and newspaper columnist, agreed that it was "difficult to cut expenditures" but said the government move was "worth exploring."

Reducing expenditure has been adopted by the government as a means to cut the budget deficit for several years now, "and there is a limit to which one could go in reducing expenses before reaching the bone," Dr. al-Fanik said.

However, the economist said he saw room for reduction in the travel expenditures and allowances for government officials.

"I think the minister is seeking a saving of JD 10 million to JD 20 million," given the nature of expenses as given in a government circular issued Sunday, Dr. al-Fanik said.

"It will be worthwhile even if we save JD 1 million or JD 2 million," he said.

The circular from the Prime Ministry defined the areas of reduction as water, electricity, fuel, telephone, telex, mail and stationery expenses.

It said a significant increase in expenditure was noticed in these areas and that it was necessary to economise in line with the economic restructuring programme under way in the Kingdom.

Mr. Gammuh said the measures to cut expenditures applied also to all public sector undertakings, including institutions such as the Social Security Corporation, the Jordan Investment Bureau and other agencies which operate directly under government guidance.

Saudi Financier Reportedly Funded Theater Bombings

JN1003194094 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 12 Mar 94 p 9

[Report by Nidal Mansur: "Security Official Reveals the Story of Explosion in Jordan; Usamah Bin-Ladin of Saudi Arabia Finances Bombing Operations"]

[Text] Despite statements by government officials affirming that the security forces have managed to apprehend the perpetrators of the explosions at the Rivoli and Salwa theaters, mystery continues to shroud this case which has preoccupied local and world public opinions.

This case raises many questions which remain unanswered at a time when security circles affirm that the defendants will soon be referred to the State Security Court. Among the questions that remain unanswered are: How many defendants are involved in the bombing incidents? Do they belong to an organization that has programs and objectives? What is this organization's link to Islamic movements in Jordan? Does it have connections with outside circles for financing and support? What are the objectives that they are trying to achieve in Jordan? How did the security forces manage to reach the perpetrators of those operations? SHIHAN has managed to uncover and answer all of these and other questions.

A security official told SHIHAN that the explosions at the Rivoli and Salva theaters were not the first of their kind. The bombings began at the al-Yarmuk Cinema in al-Baq'ah [refugee camp] in 1988. The security official, who preferred to remain anonymous, explained his viewpoint on the details of the bombings. He said: The plan, which was drawn up by the 30 defendants, most of whom received training and lived in Afghanistan, goes back to 1988. That is the year in which the explosion at the al-Yarmuk Cinema in al-Baq'ah took place. However, the repeated travel by their leaders to Afghanistan and the Philippines, and the discovery of 'Muhammad's Army', which carried out similar acts, prompted those individuals to suspend their activities in Jordan.

The security official continues: Some of those who returned from Afghanistan and who have been arrested are members of the Islamic Action Front Party. However, the Front had nothing to do with their acts. He indicated that this "organization", if one can call it that, is composed of two groups: The first, which is the smaller of the two, carried out the al-Yarmuk Cinema bombing in 1988. The second, includes the leaders as well as the first group. [as published].

The security official said that 'Abdallah Kamul al-Hashayikah, who belongs to the Muslim Brothers, is the leader of this organization, and that Muhammad 'Ali Abu-'Ayyad is the second man in the organization. The security official revealed that this organization endeavors to promote the spirit of jihad and raises the jihad slogan through the Islamic world. It seeks to eliminate vileness and to strike at the dens of corruption. He explained that it became clear from the investigation of the defendants in the bombing operations that their motive was opposition to what they termed as capitulation. They also targeted theaters and liquor stores out of their belief that they play a vile role and should be uprooted as a religious duty. They believe there is no alternative to the use of force by bombing operations.

The security official indicated that the bombing scheme was not confined to the bombings at the Rivoli and Salva theaters. An explosive charge was placed in a toffee box at the 'Akrush stores in Safut [a village between Amman and al-Baq'ah refugee camp], but failed to explode. A similar charge was placed at the Zahran Cinema in Amman. He said that investigations revealed that first class hotels in Amman were also a target. Furthermore, the investigations revealed a plan to assassinate political figures in the Jordanian and Palestinian peace delegations. However, President Yasir 'Arafat's name was not among them because they could not monitor his movements, but they were following the movements of members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations.

The security official revealed that the defendants intensified their activities during the month of January this year because the main financier of their operations and plans, a Saudi citizen working with Usamah Bin Ladin, was planning to visit Jordan. The official continued to identify the financiers of the organization by saying that: Usamah Bin-Ladin is a wealthy Saudi who lives outside Saudi Arabia and is known for supporting extremist Islamic movements around the world. He was a friend of the late 'Abdallah 'Azzam, the spiritual leader of the Jordanian Afghans.

On the relationship between what took place in Jordan and what is taking place in Egypt, the official said the defendants had no links to the fundamentalist organizations that are responsible for bombings in Egypt. However, some of the defendants confessed to their admiration for what is happening in Egypt and Algeria.

He said most defendants had confessed to the charges against them, and that quantities of dynamite and raw materials used for making homemade explosives, such as acetone peroxide, a highly explosive material, in addition to a few pistols and machine guns, were discovered at their homes. He did not rule out the fact that other weapons may have been hidden because the arrest of some defendants was expected after some of their colleagues were arrested.

The security official suggested a link between this organization, to which he did not give a name, and Muhammad's Army. However, he said that there is an organizational interconnection, but not organizational relations between the two. He denied that any of the defendants in the bombings were members of Muhammad's Army.

On how the organization and the defendants were uncovered, the official said that the first link in the chain was defendant 'Id al-Jahhali, who was injured in the theater explosion. At first, he was moved with the other injured people who were inside the theater. However, the forensic experts had suspicions about his injuries because he lost his two legs and a finger. Thus, when his condition, described as critical, improved, he was interrogated by security men. He admitted he had placed the explosive charge in the theater. He said he waited for a while before leaving to avoid suspicion, but got carried away watching the movie and the charge exploded under his seat. The official said al-Jahhalin admitted to the names of those who carried out the bombings with him.

They were led by Muhammad 'Ali Abu-'Ayyad, who gave him the explosive charge and who supervised all the bombing operations.

The security official concluded by affirming that the judicial circles have started interrogating the defendants and that a charge sheet will most likely be ready in 3 weeks. He refused to reveal where the defendants are being detained. He merely said that "they are being held in an officially recognized prison."

'Foreign Parties' Accused of Financing 'Afghans'

PM0803084094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 94 p4

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Jordanian security source has accused foreign parties of perpetrating the explosions that have recently occurred and continue to occur in Jordan, but he emphasized that these parties are neither states nor governments.

The source's statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT came after the discovery of five bombs in an area west of the capital Amman. The source said that foreign parties, now known to the security authorities, are behind the explosions and are linked to incidents which have occurred in more than one Arab country, and are currently providing aid for the so-called "Afghan Arabs." He added that the "Afghan" leader now detained and under interrogation with his group in Jordan is 45 years old and a resident of al-Baq'ah refugee camp north of Amman, and that most members of that organization come from that camp.

On the five hand grenades found by the security authorities, he said that they were of the U.S. M-26 type and were hidden in a plastic bag when they were discovered near the industrial area adjacent to the Civil Defense Department in the area of Bayadir Wadi al-Sayr west of Amman.

The source did not rule out the possibility that they were planted by "Jordanian Afghans" particularly as they were similar to the devices used in previous explosions. He said that a security commission has been formed to investigate and find out the source of these bombs and why they were planted in that area close to the Civil Defense Department building.

A citizen had told the security authorities that as he was walking around in his workshop close to the Civil Defense Department, he discovered the bombs in a plastic bag, and called in the explosives experts to defuse them.

Deputy Criticizes Security Forces 'Harassment'

JN0903143694 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 8-14 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Deputy Dr. Muhammad 'Uwaydah has said democracy in our country is lame, because at a time when citizens, parties, and political forces deal with democracy as a reality, the government and its organs still have a martial law mentality.

He said houses continue to be stormed, arrests made, and some citizens denied employment at the orders of the security organs. He added that passports are withheld and various forms of harassment are practiced, and this radically conflicts with the tenets of democracy.

In a statement to AL-SABIL, he said the security organs claim to have arrest warrants from the general prosecutor, but in fact these organs have empty arrest warrant forms that do not contain the names of the people carrying out the arrest, the person who should be arrested, or even the general prosecutor. All this is taking place at a time when King Husayn expresses eagerness to maintain democracy and says democracy is an irrevocable option.

Dr. 'Uwaydah recalled that King Husayn recently said, in an address to the House of Representatives, that he wants the Jordanian and Arab citizens to feel that they are human beings. Deputy 'Uwaydah asked: How can all these practices be described?

Dr. 'Uwaydah witnessed the arrest and search of the house of Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid Diyyah, secretary of the Islamic Action Front's branch in Suwaylih. He said he saw with his eyes an empty arrest warrant after he asked to read Diyyah's arrest warrant. He said he saw a security man filling out the arrest warrant.

Dr. 'Uwaydah said political parties and forces are not immune from the official organs' pursuit. He asked: What is the meaning of seizing books and leaflets that belong to the Muslim Brotherhood taken from Diyyah's house?

He added that if a citizen is brought to account for having a book that is available in the market and that is approved by the publication authorities, and if that book deals with a group that is officially licensed, then what liberties are left?

Negotiator on Differences With Israel in Talks

PM1003124094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p6

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Marwan Dudin, member of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral peace negotiations with Israel, has revealed that there are clear differences of opinion between the Jordanians and the Israelis regarding the negotiations. He said: They talk to us as if peace has already been achieved.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dudin said that the Israeli negotiators' method of negotiation is completely different from the Jordanian method, for whereas the Jordanians are looking for a clear way of establishing a just, lasting, and durable peace on the basis of the specific Jordanian and Arab constant principles pertaining to the entire peace process, the Israelis

are following a completely different approach and talking about matters and issues which are supposed to be discussed in detail after full and comprehensive agreement is reached on the main issues on the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiation track, the same as on other tracks.

Dudin, who was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after returning to Amman with the other members of the Jordanian delegation to the negoatiations, said: We believe that there is a clear and specific agenda including major issues which should be negotiated in depth. If we cannot reach full agreement on them, the peace we aspire to and work for sincerely and with open minds, will not be achieved.

He said that their method of negotiation is basically focused on what they call "Israel's security" irrespective of reaching agreement on the issues on which specific agreements must be reached.

The members of the Jordanian delegation had returned to Amman in implementation of the decision of the Arab parties to the peace process to suspend the negotiations temporarily following the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron. Dudin said: To us, the topics on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda are of paramount importance. We well understand that it would be illogical to discuss very advanced issues that are supposed to come as a result of the peace process or of the peace agreements, before a comprehensive agreement is reached on solutions for the main issues still unresolved.... We are talking about the issues of water and our right to it, the occupied Jordanian territory, and return of the refugees. We cannot imagine any possibility of signing a peace agreement or moving on to other details which, in our view and in the view of the entire international community, would be results of the peace agreement, before clear and acceptable agreements are reached on all these issues.

Dudin also said: I believe that there is no agreement so far between the Jordanian and Israeli views. The Israelis are using a negotiating language and approach only to serve their own interests without any clear inclination so far to discuss the main issues on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. For instance, they say why should we not talk about tourism and combating natural disasters, why should we not be allowed to visit Petra, and why should we not discuss commercial issues, for your trade is going to be with us and not with the Palestinians, and other such issues which could only be tackled at later stages and can only be discussed after peace is actually established through agreement on the fundamental issues and topics, the most important being water, and our full undiminished rights to it must be fulfilled, our occupied territory where full Jordanian sovereignty must be restored, and the issue of the refugee problem which must be radically solved.

Dudin added: All I can say is that, in the negotiations, we expressed our views strongly on the various issues and we told them that all the matters they have been raising would come after the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and durable peace acceptable to us and to future generations. [passage omitted]

Dudin further said: The negotiations are clearly at a standstill now because of our different philosophies. We say that we will not sign any peace agreement before full agreement is reached on the issues on the agenda, but they clearly concentrate on matters that would arise later on and that, in our view, cannot be discussed before the main pending issues are resolved. [passage omitted]

Editorial Welcomes New Russian Initiative

JN1103140494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Mar 94 p 1, 22

[Editorial: "An Independent Russian Initiative"]

[Text] After a long sleep, and an almost complete absence from the theater of international politics, particularly in this part of the world, Russian diplomacy has begun the first move of its kind concerning the Middle East. The Russian foreign minister is scheduled to arrive in Tunis today within the framework of a mission that will also take him to Israel, with the objective of reactivating the peace process which has been suspended following the heinous Hebron massacre.

It seems that the Russian move is based on an initiative that is independent from the U.S. moves in the region. It also seems that this move goes beyond the U.S. stand which in full harmony with the Israeli stand. This Russian move is aimed at reassessing the current situation in the Middle East approximately 28 months after the outset of the current peace process at the Madrid conference.

Perhaps the focal point in the declared Russian initiative is based on reconvening the Madrid conference in light of a host of changes that have occurred in the Middle East in these long months, and based on a series of facts which were revealed by the peace negotiations, and which were not assessed objectively prior to the convening of the Madrid conference in October 1991.

Since these changes and the series of facts, revealed by the peace talks over the past months, were not fully in harmony with the Israeli stand and with the objectives of the peace process placed by the Americans, the initial Israeli reaction opposed this initiative. Also, the initial U.S. reactions did not welcome this independent Russian initiative, the first since the end of the cold war.

In light of all this, we welcome this timely Russian move aimed to launch the deadlocked peace process. We also support a process to reassess the peace process by one of the cosponsors who has been far away from the political arena in this region for a long time.

We believe that the Russian foreign minister's mission is evidence that the involved parties have not accepted the

unilateral sponsorship of the deadlocked peace process, particularly since the American sponsor has shown a lack of fairness and objectivity, if not complete bias toward the Israeli view.

Columnist Warns of Anti-U.S. Emotion

JN0903142994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Mar 94 pp 32, 27

["Last Station" Column by Salih al-Qallab: "United States Taking Sides Again"]

[Text] Obviously, the U.S. attitude toward the struggle in the region is still unchanged. Certainly, the Hebron massacre, which drew reactions from and shocked the entire world, has not made Bill Clinton or his staff bat an eyelash. Nor has this prompted them to change, even slightly, their country's policy from that of Israel.

The latest reports on this subject indicates Washington told the Palestinian leadership that it should resolve its problems with Israel directly and without any intervention from any other party, that the discussion of the issue of sending international protection forces to Gaza and Jericho—and only to Gaza and Jericho—will be held only within the Israeli-Palestinian meetings and within the framework of the Oslo agreement.

Thus, the United States proves once again that it is blindly taking sides with Israeli governments hawks, that it does not care for Arab and Islamic sentiments that appeared as reactions to the Hebron massacre, that it insists on hurting the feelings of Arabs and Muslims and imposes itself by force on Israel's side as an antagonist of all peoples in the region.

Immediately following the massacre, President Bill Clinton addressed an appeal to transfer the Israeli-Palestinian talks to Washington. The PLO immediately accepted the invitation. Now the U.S. Administration is taking issues back to square one. It is insisting that the issue of international protection for the inhabitants of the occupied territory can only be solved between the PLO and Israel and within the Oslo agreement.

In view of the blood shed by Israeli terrorism at the Ibrahimi Mosque, the world is now convinced that real protection for the Palestinian people under occupation must be provided. However, the United States continues to turn a cold shoulder to logic and to insist that every Arab and Muslim everywhere must continue to feel that his actual and definite enemy is the United States and not the Israeli state.

Why does the United States reject effective protection for the Palestinian people under occupation and insist on spiking the wheels, when even some Israeli cabinet members support providing such protection and for removing settlements from the West Bank and Gaza?

When it takes a hostile stand that rejects the facts of history and reality, the United States should not be surprised if the current that opposes it and its interests intensifies in the region and throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds as well. It should not be surprised at what will happen in the future. People are collections of feelings and sentiments. When their feelings are hurt their reaction will, by and large, be spontaneous and without thought or discretion.

U.S. Bias Toward Israel, Arab Inaction Assailed

JN1003171494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Mar 94 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Two Weeks After the Massacre"]

[Text] Two weeks have passed since the odious massacre at the Ibrahimi mosque. Yet, no signs have appeared of any Israeli or U.S. moves to reopen the road to peace, which the perpetrators of the massacre have blocked with blood and fire.

Provided with U.S. political cover at the UN Security Council, the Israeli Government seems to be shirking its responsibility as an occupying force. According to the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel must protect civilians in wartime. However, the Israeli Government continues its terrorist policy, without showing the least respect for human rights.

Instead of encouraging the Rabin government to assume its full responsibilities toward this terrible crime, the United States for two weeks has hampered any move by the UN Security Council to issue a resolution providing for the validity of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory and securing protection for the Palestinian people.

In view of this Israeli arrogance and the flagrant U.S. bias toward the Yitzhaq Rabin government, the Arab side looks like a weak, wounded body watching what is taking place at the UN Security Council, unable to move or even to express pain as a result of the ceaseless knifing of his flesh.

Having seen the odious massacre in Hebron and the subsequent killings of scores of youths, children, and women in the occupied territories, we are still both panicked and unable to respond to the challenge that has been posed by the spilled blood. Two weeks after the massacre, we see an Arab and Islamic world full of signs that call for regret, sadness, and pity.

Vis-a-vis all that, it is not ruled out that this Arab-Islamic submissiveness and the spiteful U.S. bias toward Israel will encourage the ultra-Zionist extremists to commit something more horrible than the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, so long as murderers and criminals can avoid accountability, not to mention punishment.

Paper Urges Arabs To Lift Embargo on Iraq

JN0703145894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Mar 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "So That Others May Respect Us!"]

[Text] It seems that no one in this world pays attention to us, as a nation, anymore. This is because we are always subjected to humiliation and annihilation and to looting and killing whenever others wish to express their grudge and hatred against us. The Ramadan massacre [in Hebron] was retained in memory no longer than 10 days. The West, led by the United States, believed that this massacre did not deserve to be remembered longer. Hence, this is an opportunity to examine international legitimacy. Others disregard this legitimacy while asking us to honor it. Others despise this legitimacy while asking us to appreciate it. They then hide their faces, so we cannot see their sarcastic laughter at the peoples and nations which still pin hopes on international legitimacy.

The slaughter of more than 50 Palestinians in one of the holiest Muslim mosques is an example of what has become daily acts committed by the West or Israeli racism. We are only left with appealing to the world to protect us and send us—and perhaps at our expense—witnesses to our humiliating death. This is so because we do not want to reconsider our position even on a single occasion which would express our courage and prove that we can do something. Those who have expressed much grief over the Palestinian people must reconsider their position. The Palestinian people need our support not our support for others against them. Now that grief has been expressed out of pan-Arab considerations, we would like to recall the fact, though seldom beneficial, that the Iraqi people are an Arab people, that hundreds of Iraqi children are starving to death, and that hundreds of ailing Iraqis pass away everyday because we, and not others, are the ones who are besieging Iraq by the false international legitimacy which is slaughtering the Iraqis and protecting both the occupation troops and settlers in Palestine.

While we recall this catastrophe, the U.S. Administration reiterates its known tone that Iraq still violates international legitimacy and has not yet complied fully with its resolutions. This tone seeks to prevent the Security Council from lifting the embargo on Iraq's oil exports. These exports would enable Iraq to purchase milk for its children, medicines for its patients, pencils for its students, water colors for its painters, and some serenity and reassurance for its old people who have faced much U.S. intimidation since August 1990.

For us to stand alongside the Palestinian people against the settler murderers, and to support the Ibrahimi Mosque and stand against all the Zionist, U.S., and Western arsenals, and also to back the brother against the enemy, the path is clear; namely, Arabs should end the blockade they are imposing against the Iraqi people. Only by doing this will we confirm that we are still Arabs who can have make their own decisions and who freely, independently, and courageously pursue their policies, so others would be compelled to respect us and honor the international legitimacy in whose name and under whose banner we are being slaughtered and humiliated!

Editorial Urges Government To Support King

JN0903213994 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 8-14 Mar 94 p 1

[Editorial by the chief editor: "Democracy, O Your Majesty the King!"]

[Text] King Husayn has always spoken warmly about the freedom, dignity, and pride of the Jordanians, who only bow to Almighty God. The king was not satisfied with this, so he decided—as he stressed in his address to the deputies recently—to return democracy to the country. Within a few years, democratic institutions were set up, the National Charter was adopted by the influential political forces in Jordan, democratic laws were enacted, martial laws were abolished, and public liberties were launched. All this was accompanied by intensive royal calls for safeguarding the human rights of the Jordanians as a prelude to setting up a Jordanian democratic example in the entire Arab region. The objective of King Husayn is—as he himself reiterated in his address to the most important democratic institution in the country, the Parliament—to make the Jordanians in particular, and the Arabs in general, feel that they are no less great than the other free peoples of the world.

It would be fair to say that the citizens in Jordan have enjoyed an atmosphere of openness, frankness, and freedom the likes of which do not exist in the entire Arab region. However, we also must be fair and say that some officials are still incapable of democratizing their mind, behavior, and way of practicing their powers. We are now witnessing a kind of retreat on the issue of human rights in Jordan. Deputies, writers, and officials have admitted that the whole democratization process will be endangered if the decisionmakers do not take the initiative and adopt immediate measures to safeguard the king's decision, to save it from the tampering of those who are committing undemocratic violations, whether with good or bad intentions. We, as journalists, are aware of the long list of these violations. The masses, who know some of these violations, sometimes file complaints, while other times leaving the matter to God.

The strange thing is that most of the violations of human rights in Jordan are committed in the name of the law under the pretext of maintaining security. In other words, the citizen's security is undermined and his dignity is rubbed in the dirt to maintain security, as happened a few days ago in al-Baq'ah Camp, where innocent citizens were forced to lay down on the ground and were insulted and treated badly. When the deputies of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] brought the matter to the prime minister, in his capacity the head of the

executive branch, he said that this incident is an individual and separate one, expressed his regret at such incidents, and promised to follow it up.

In another incident, Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid Dayyah, secretary of the IAF branch in Suwaylih, was arrested under strange circumstances. The people who carried out the arrests presented a memorandum signed by the public prosecutor but with no names in it. When Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah, who was present during the arrest, expressed his astonishment at such behavior, the person in charge of the arrest filled in the form in front of the deputy.

In another incident, a youth was arrested because he was carrying leaflets issued by the Muslim Brotherhood, which is a legal group as we know, and was placed in custody with suspects in immoral cases and criminals. This youth was released after spending a terrible night with those people, who insulted him. And the list of such examples is long. Certain citizens are still banned from employment in accordance with the instructions of the security forces. We also still hear about the confiscation of passports, unfounded arrests, investigations, and other practices that prevailed under the martial law.

Such incidents—even if they are few compared with what took place under the martial law—should sound the alarm. The royal decision is very clear, and the executive and judicial branches are charged by the king's designation letter to carry out all of the king's instructions. If these branches are incapable of carrying out these instructions, then they must step down immediately and resign because they are not faithful to the interests of the people and are incapable of carrying out the leadership's decisions. And if they do not want to carry out the king's instructions, this is even more serious because they will be declaring their rebellion and mutiny, God forbid. This has never occurred in the history of Jordan. Our contemporary history has never registered a government that refused to implement the throne's instructions.

The citizens seek to entrench free democratic life and to live under laws that ensure fair trials for suspects. However, the citizens are now living in a state of confusion and anxiety. This state can only end if we remove the gap between the desires and instructions of King Husayn on one hand and the practices of the executive branch on the other. If laws are not implemented in a legal way our democratic march will be threatened.

No honest citizen will call for freeing criminals from the penalty stipulated by law, but the trials of those people must be fair and their arrests must be under humane circumstances. King Husayn does not accept fabricated accusations or that injustice and insults can be practiced against his people.

President al-Hirawi Addresses Ramadan Banquet

NC1003220294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi addressed a Ramadan banquet he hosted at the B'abda Palace this evening. He said the Lebanese people are firm in their unity no matter how often they are faced with challenges and danger. He added that the abominable crime [explosion in a Beirut church] committed in the midst of the peace process surprised us but the Lebanese people's unanimity on denouncing it came as a plebiscite that confirmed the confidence in our march. The president added: Hence, it is our responsibility to be frank. Committing a criminal act inside God's houses reflects the extent to which moral, spiritual, and civil backwardness has reached. We are no longer able to tell whether the call for peace ushers in the 21st century or whether it stoops with humanity to the world of treachery. We appeal to the wise people and thinkers to rush to launch a major cultural awakening campaign to uproot the desire for violence and extremism. We uphold the cause of peace and democracy, and man's life is dearer than shedding blood in vain. The Lebanese people's denunciation of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was no less than the denunciation of the massacre in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. We are united for the sake of Lebanon as we are united against violence and extremism. Lebanon, which held the shield of defense of all Arabs, is against the defamation of Arab dignity anywhere, even against our brothers [reference to Palestinians], for whom we bore the heaviest burden when they believed that the road to Jerusalem passed through the destruction of Lebanon. When they thought they had obtained their rights, they broke away from us and bypassed Arab solidarity, to which we committed ourselves when the negotiations began.

President al-Hirawi continued: Our security has been achieved, but before we could rebuild and recover our rights, certain factions have rushed through crime to revive fear and doubt in our unity and accomplishments. However, the national unity proved how fruitful our efforts have been and proved that our peace process is genuine. He added: You all know that any incident smaller than this crime was enough to foment sedition and destroy the country. We have won the wager, the bet on our unity. The Lebanese people decided on coexistence as their way of life and as the message of their country. Any violation of this method is a blow against the Lebanese people's will and against the whole world, which was unanimous on supporting Lebanon's reconciliation, independence, and sovereignty. Foreign plots will not succeed if people at home are not (?deceived) by wrong convictions and allured by a handful of money. In any case, the state will not hesitate to deal with any breach of security because security, freedom, and national unity take precedence over politics and its ploys. What happened did not target the Christians as much as it targeted the state, the citizen, and all of Lebanon.

The president said that what is needed is a link between freedom and fact. He added that decisive options are necessary in various economic, political, cultural, and educational spheres and noted that loyalty to the country is not determined according to relations with officials.

He asked: How can we be healthy and how can democracy be healthy amidst sectarian squabbling? What is required is a thought that will develop citizenship and combat sectarianism and tribalism.

He emphasized commitment to seeking a comprehensive and just peace based on international resolutions and in coordination with the brothers, especially Syria. He said: We will not go separately and will allow no one to take exclusive control of us. We will not be insignificant in peace time. We are following up the process with every confidence and faith.

President al-Hirawi affirmed that everyone will rush to receive his holiness the pope, who will see the truth in our country and realize that the greatest of nations is the one that grows stronger when there is danger.

Army Surrounds LF Militia Headquarters in Ghidras

Ja'ja': 'No Apparent Reason' Given

NC1003130994 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, March 10 (AFP)—The army surrounded the headquarters of the former Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia on Thursday, LF leader Samir Ja'ja' said.

Ja'ja' told AFP on the telephone that around 100 soldiers were deployed around the militia's fortified headquarters in Ghidras, north of Beirut, where he also lives, for no apparent reason.

"One unit took up position outside one of the three entrances to the building and began searching people going in and out," he said.

"About 30 minutes later a second unit was posted outside the second entrance and then a third group of soldiers demanded to go inside the building but my bodyguards prevented them," he added.

The building was still surrounded several hours later.

"I don't know the reason for these measures. There has been no incident," Ja'ja' added.

Last month, he said that the Syrian-backed Lebanese government was to blame for a bomb attack in a church on February 27 that killed nine people and wounded 55 others.

"The Lebanese government is responsible for this crime. It is the duty of the state to protect its citizens," he said.

"The Lebanese people have been greatly deceived because they have realised that the security the authorities promised to restore is still a mirage," complained Ja'ja'.

His militia was disbanded along with others after Lebanon's 1975-1990 war.

Military Source Denies Reports

NC1003134094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1255 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Here is a flash just in from the news desk—a military source has stated the following:

A local media organ this afternoon carried a report saying that Army units are surrounding the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces [LF] in Ghidras. This report is inaccurate and untrue. We would like to clarify that the Army's recent movements in the Kasrawan area are part of a field plan to consolidate security in the region following several incidents and rumors that have caused concern among the citizens. The security source assures the public that the security situation is stable, despite some incidents that seek to undermine the morale of the citizens. The security agencies are looking into these incidents to uncover those behind them.

Ja'ja' Explains Situation

NC1103100694 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Excerpts] At a news conference, Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' explained to the public the circumstances surrounding what happened in Ghidras. He affirmed that such measures will not change the stands of the party leadership, which are firm stands over which there can be no bargaining or pressure. Ja'ja' reminded political and judicial authorities of their responsibilities.

Dr. Samir Ja'ja' affirmed that what is happening has nothing to do with the measures the state is taking. He pointed out that regrettably the state is doing things that harm Lebanon and hamper its progress. He described this new development as a mere tightening of the noose round the neck of the LF headquarters in Ghidras. He clarified that neither laws, nor regulations, nor the Constitution stipulate that journalists are banned from entering Ghidras or bringing in the necessary equipment they need to cover an event. This [the government action] is not acceptable. If there are any political authorities in the country, they should allow this. If there are any judicial authorities, then all such measures should be decreed by these authorities. Let us listen to part of what Dr. Ja'ja' said in his news conference which he held last night in Ghidras. [passage omitted]

[Begin Ja'ja' recording] [passage omitted] I very much regret that the Lebanese authorities, which are our authorities, behave in a manner that strips them of all credibility. This is something that hurts and pains us. These authorities' behavior shows that they have no self-respect. Our hopes and expectations are to have authorities respected by everyone inside and outside the country, but first they should have self-respect. It is unfortunate for the state to be at a stage or time where it allows itself everything, dodges all laws, leaks information, creates news, provides the explanations it likes, ignores facts, deduces and creates things that are not there. It is regrettable that a state would do so. [passage omitted]

The authorities cannot be this [word indistinct]. I will ignore what has been said, such as statements that these measures fall within the security arrangements. I do not understand what security arrangements stipulate that a military presence should be deployed at the four entrances of a house that lead only to it. What we are certain of is that we shall stand firm regarding our stand. If some sides think that they will be able to change our stand through their behavior they are very wrong. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Dr. Ja'ja' affirmed that the state is losing its final shreds of credibility, which it could have nurtured to its advantage, without achieving anything. It is widening the gap between itself and its people. This is undesirable and achieves nothing. He clarified that the state is destroying itself through such behavior. [passage omitted]

Before the news conference he held in Ghidras, Dr. Ja'ja' asked all citizens and his supporters in various parts of Lebanon not to react to these government measures and to remain calm.

Syrian Defense Minister, Delegation on Visit

NC0903115094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, arrived at B'abda Palace at 1305 today at the head of a high-ranking delegation. The Syrian delegation consists of General 'Ali Duba, head of the security and intelligence department of the Syrian Armed Forces; Major General Ibrahim Safi, commander of the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon; and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian security and intelligence in the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon.

Group Meets Defense Minister

NC0903190494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this afternoon received General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of defense, who led a Syrian delegation that included Gen. 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff; Major General Ibrahim Safi, commander of the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon; and Staff Brigadier General

Ghazi Kan'an, chairman of the security and reconnaissance apparatus branch in the Syrian Arab Forces operating in Lebanon. The delegation came to offer condolences to President al-Hirawi on the death of his sister.

The Syrian delegation later met with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, who pointed out that they discussed general issues. Responding to a question, Dallul said that there are attempts to terrify the people. He denied any negligence on the part of the security agencies, calling on the people to refrain from questioning the efficiency of security and judiciary apparatuses and for giving them the chance to do their duty.

The Syrian delegation then visited Army Commander General Emile Lahhud and reviewed military issues and coordination between the two fraternal armies. Intelligence chief Colonel Michel Rahbani and his assistant, Col. Jamil al-Sayyid, attended the meeting.

Rabin Tours 'Occupied' Border Area, Meets Lahd

NC0903175094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Before we get into details of the news, we would like to note a new Israeli move that falls in the context of the continuous defiance and provocations the Hebrew state indulges in against Lebanese sovereignty.

The enemy's prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, today toured the occupied border region. He met in Marj 'Uyun barracks with Antoine Lahd, commander of the agent militia, and a number of his military commanders.

Radio Voice of the South, the mouthpiece of Lahd's South Lebanese Army, carried a statement by Rabin in which he insinuated that peace with Lebanon will come after the resistance is eliminated, particularly Hizballah; after the Lebanese Government proves its ability to maintain security north of the border area for six months; and after the soldiers and officers of Lahd's militia are absorbed in the Lebanese Army, as Rabin put it.

Buwayz on State's Duties After Recent Bombings

NC1003131194 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz followed by a question-and-answer-session with unidentified correspondents at the Foreign Ministry on 10 March; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] ...the attempt to implement the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and what has followed continue in the south and in the country's interior. I say very simply and frankly that there are repeated attempts to destabilize the internal situation with the aim of forcing Lebanon to attend the negotiations from a weak position. This requires us to respond to this provocation with more internal and national cohesion.

[Correspondent] Minister, you received this week the Lebanese negotiating delegation members who reported to you on the negotiations and talks held in Washington. Can you tell us if there has been progress on the Lebanese track?

[Buwayz] It is clear from the latest round held in Washington that Israel's desire to make progress was almost nonexistent. It was evident that the Israeli Government was not ready to apply the principles of the Geneva summit between President Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This gives the impression and makes it clear that there was a determined decision to foil this round or ensure its failure. Additionally, we feel there is not yet readiness within Israel to achieve progress, something that is possibly due to the domestic situation in Israel. In any case, there are U.S.-Israeli contacts that are supposed to activate things. Some U.S.-Arab contacts are also expected with the aim of finding a way out that would restore substance to the negotiations.

[Correspondent] Has the United States asked Lebanon to rescind its decision to suspend the negotiations? What are the conditions for doing so?

[Buwayz] Negotiations are not an issue of formalities. Formalities, the timing of the round, and the way invitations are sent out to attend the rounds are not the bases for the negotiations. The basis remains Israel's ability and its decision to achieve progress. For several reasons, we do not feel that Israel has decided it wants to achieve progress.

[Correspondent] What did you discuss with the secretary general of the Higher Lebanese-Syrian Council?

[Buwayz] Lebanese-Syrian relations are not outside the framework of this regional situation. It is normal for us to discuss the regional developments that are of interest to the secretary general of the Higher Council.

[Correspondent] Regarding the peace negotiations, what is your stance on the Russian positions that yesterday announced the death of the peace negotiations and called for a new international conference. Regarding security, many denunciations were made and the state was asked to take strong measures to prevent bombings. Is there anything new?

[Buwayz] Of course. The Lebanese state must perform all its duties, now more than ever, in controlling and monitoring security. Citizens should also realize that there is a premeditated provocation aiming to provoke a particular sector of the Lebanese people to create reactions that will play a principal role in undermining internal cohesion and solidarity. It is no coincidence that the Kasrawan area was the direct target. The reason for targeting it is clear. The targeting of a church and the French Cultural Center were no coincidence either. All these developments should clearly make us realize that there is an attempt to provoke. We should not be trapped by it. The state must thwart these attempts through its security organs and the Lebanese people, who have experienced war and know that things should be more cohesive than ever.

Delegation Led by Darawshah Continues Visit

Al-Sani Comments

JN1003154794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received a delegation of the 1948 Palestinians led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, who are in Damascus to offer condolences on the nation's loss of Staff Major Engineer Paratrooper Basil al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Delegation member Talab al-Sani' made a speech in which he said: At the outset of my speech I would like to say that this delegation represents all of Palestine, from the Galilee, the triangle, and the Arab Negev. This delegation includes people from Yafo, 'Akko, and Haifa. This shows they are a vital part of the Arab nation. Every day they experience attempts to uproot them from their land. But, they are standing fast on their Arab land. We always say we are part of the Arab nation. We are proud of our Arab identity. We are ready to pay the price. A week ago, after the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, there was a massive uprising inside 1948 Palestine. A youth from the Negev city of Rahat was also martyred. Tens of people were wounded. This shows these people are a vital part of the Arab nation, despite political boundaries and the political siege imposed on us. We have not forgotten our affiliation. Neither have we knelt down or bowed our heads.

Your Excellency, I would like to say that in addition to what my brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah said, that Syria's position, your wise position at the Geneva summit, has put the Israeli Government in a corner, in a defensive position, because they have always used Israel's security as a pretext, as if security is only for one side and that the other parties and states have no security. We believe the occupier is Israel, that the aggressor is Israel, and that the side carrying out repressive and oppressive measures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is Israel.

Israel will not be able to use its powerful media to propagate its claims that the Arab world and the Arab states threaten Israel's security. Your wise position advocating full withdrawal for complete peace has put Israel and the Israeli Government into a corner. The Israeli Government is trying to find a way out of this impasse with weak justifications. The world knows, the Israeli Government knows, and the Israeli people know these justifications are very weak.

They say the news media did not enter into and did not participate in the summit. We believe peace cannot be lasting if it is not a just peace. If peace is not just and is imposed in accordance with transient circumstances and facts, then there will be no peace, because circumstances and facts can change. For peace to be lasting, it must be just. Just peace guarantees all Arab people's rights. These rights are indivisible. We have an example of a separate peace in Egypt. This separate peace could not prevent wars on the Lebanese front and in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip where our heroic Arab people have their intifadah.

In order to have a comprehensive peace, there must be coordination. We believe in the unity of the cause, the unity of the struggle, and the unity of the solution. Our fate is one. We hope there will be an end to political boundaries. But, this is a hope for the future that will be governed by future circumstances and developments. Now, at the current stage, there is a need for coordination, because Israeli efforts are aimed at imposing peace, or at suggesting there is peace without actually implementing peace on the ground. Israel tries to penetrate the Arab world economically and to propagate the idea of a Middle Eastern market, while continuing to occupy the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

We believe the occupation of southern Lebanon is the continuation of fighting there. Territory has never been and will never be a means of defense, but the cause of continued fighting. We have always said we are proud of your wise and honorable stands and your political wisdom, which is recognized by enemies before friends. We have faith in Syria's leadership role. We hope God will grant you success as a leader of the Arab nation and a leader of Syria.

God willing, peace based on the establishment of a Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, will be achieved. God willing, the Syrian flag will fly over the Golan and peace will prevail in the region.

Poet Mustafa al-Jammal, chairman of the 'Ara and 'Ar'ara council in the Triangle recited a poem titled Damascus, in which he reviewed the glorious past of Damascus and Syria's role in Arab struggle throughout history. He offered condolences to the president on the homeland's loss of Staff Major Engineer Paratrooper Basil al-Asad.

Professor Khalil 'Ataminah from B'ir Zayt University recited a poem in praise of Basil al-Asad in which he expressed his heartfelt condolences to the president and the Syrian people on the homeland's loss of Basil al-Asad. He praised Syria's militant stands throughout history.

The president replied to the speakers of the delegation members, saying: I was pleased with this meeting. I was pleased with this fraternal atmosphere. You prove, through what we heard from you, that boundaries and borders cannot cancel sentiments and history. We will continue to be sons of one nation. We will continue to aspire and work for our glory and dignity. Your are now in your country. This is not only my opinion, but it also expresses the feelings of all citizens in Syria. [passage omitted]

Meeting Held With Syrian Jews

JN1003143694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The delegation of the 1948 Palestinians met with several sons of the Musawi [Jewish] community in Syria yesterday. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the Musawi community in Syria is part of the Syrian people. He said they met with them to clarify some Israeli political and public opinion issues, and to bring back a message of the true image of their life in Syria.

Darawshah said the delegation will visit a synagogue and a Musawi community school today to prove to all who seek to distort the truth that Syria does not discriminate against the Musawi community.

Yusuf Jajati, deputy head of the Musawi community in Syria, denounced the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. He said: In the name of the Musawi community, we strongly denounce these actions. Jajati stressed that the Musawi community is living in Syria in peace. He expressed hope that a just and comprehensive peace will be achieved in the region.

Darawshah Interviewed

JN1003151294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0552 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, head of the Israeli Arab delegation currently visiting Syria, by 'Isam Dari, in Damascus on 9 March]

[Text] [Dari] We asked delegation head 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah for his impressions of his visit to Syria and the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and members of the delegation. He said:

[Begin recording] [Darawshah] We met with the president to perform a pan-Arab, social, and humanitarian duty, to offer condolences on the death of his son Basil, may God have mercy upon his soul. That is the primary objective of our visit. The president received us very warmly, as a great father of all the sons of the Arab nation. He welcomed us, and gave us a detailed briefing on Syria's position. I can say the president is a vital scholar for our Arab masses everywhere. He explained that Syria's strategic position is a peaceful position. Syria wants to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy. He pointed to the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. He said Syria wants to achieve the peace of the brave, the peace that guarantees the end of Israeli occupation of all Arab territories, not just the Syrian Golan. He said he wants the implementation of the land for peace principle, Israel's withdrawal in return for peace. He said Syria has a lofty stand, a militant stand, a stand of pride and dignity. He said Syria's position is based on free Syrian Arab will, and that Syria will not submit to pressure from outside to adopt any particular position. He said: We adopt our stands based on our strategic vision, and on our belief in the Arab cause and Arab rights.

[Dari] You toured Damascus and some other areas. What is your impression of Syria and the Golan?

[Darawshah] Our meeting with President al-Asad; our meetings with the sons of our people in Syria; our tours of the Golan, the al-Qunaytirah Governorate, and the Damascus Governorate; our meetings with the brother governors; and our meetings with the masses of our people in markets and streets; as well as our meeting with the masses of our Palestinian people in the al-Yarmuk camp and elsewhere, have proved to us that this country, Syria, of which we are proud, is an oasis of freedom, dignity, and pride, and that all the requirements of honorable life are in Syria. Basic needs are available at prices that are cheaper than in any other state in the world. I have toured the world. Now, I have learned that the cheapest prices are in Syria. Commodities and goods are first class, very excellent. They are high-standard Syrian-made commodities. This conflicts with the propaganda campaign launched against Syria in the past, on the pretext that it is a police state, a state that suppresses freedoms, a state where Jews are persecuted, and a state that suffers a shortage of the basic needs. We have found that everything is abundant, that freedom is available, and that loftiness and dignity characterize every action by Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, may God preserve him.

[Dari] Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, you have come from the occupied Arab territories. Following the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, the situation became very tense. Can you tell us your impression of the massacre and the Israeli army's actions against Palestinian Arab citizens, not only in Hebron, but also in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

[Darawshah] We have continuous contact with the sons of our Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We are very close to them, to their feelings, and their stands. We support their cause and their persistent struggle to achieve freedom and independence and to kick out the occupation. We bless the valiant intifadah of the sons of our Palestinian people to get rid of this occupation. Based on this, every time anything takes place, we call upon each other and rise up to defend the sons of our people. Following the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, the heinous massacre perpetrated by settlers protected by the Israeli army, we visited Hebron, offered condolences to the martyrs' families, visited the wounded in hospitals, and met with the masses of our people in the city of Hebron and its governorate. We denounced this massacre. We call on the Israeli Government to deter the settlers, to disarm them, and to deport them from Hebron, from Qiryat Arba', the accursed settlement, and from all settlements established in the occupied Arab territories. We call for international protection of the Palestinian people, because the Israeli occupation not only did not protect the Palestinian

people, but also allowed the settlers to carry out repressive acts against the Palestinian people. The Israeli army itself has carried out repressive and suppressive acts against the sons of our Palestinian people. The massacre that began at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque was continued later by the Israeli army, to the extent that the number of martyrs and wounded was much greater than the number of those killed at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

[Dari] Are you trying to say the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has confirmed the impossibility of coexistence between settlers and Palestinian citizens?

[Darawshah] There will be no coexistence under occupation. There will be no coexistence as long as settlements continue. Therefore, all the settlers must be evicted and returned to Israel. These settlements should be turned into homes for Palestinian refugees and evacuees. Let them return and take these settlements as their houses. This is how we can achieve peace. This also applies to the occupied Syrian Golan. Settlers there must be evicted, the Golan must be returned in full, and these settlements should be turned into houses for Syrian evacuees who return to the Syrian Golan.

[Dari] Thank you. [end recording]

DFLP's Hawatimah Meets Delegation

JN1003162394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] A delegation from the Arab Democratic Party, led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, has met with some Palestinian leaders, including Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Hawatimah briefed our radio on the meeting:

[Begin Hawatimah recording] The meeting reviewed the current situation in light of the results of the Oslo and Cairo accords. The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was the bitter, dirty fruit of these accords, which legitimized the presence of settlements in Gaza and Jericho and completely ignored settlements and settlers in the West Bank and greater Jerusalem.

In light of the dialogue that took place, brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah said his party completely reject the Cairo agreement and have some observations on the Oslo accord. For our part, we used clear, direct language to ask him and his party to reconsider their position on the Oslo accord and to not support this accord. We also asked him to join the opposition to the Rabin government, because Rabin pursues the same policy as Likud, but embellishes his language. The intifadah in the occupied territories and its expansion into Israel and along the Galilee, the Triangle, the Negev, and the coast indicates the Arab Democratic Party and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality should reconsider their ties with the Rabin government. In addition, all democratic, leftist, and peaceful forces in Israel should reconsider their stands in order to annul the Oslo and Cairo accords and restructure the entire political, negotiating process within the framework of international resolutions. This would truly lead to full withdrawal in return for full peace, a full, balanced peace based on the establishment of a Palestinian state next to the State of Israel, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and resolving the problem of the refugees in line with UN Resolution 194. [end recording]

Darawshah Denies Opposition to Accords

JN1003203094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Interview with Israeli Arab Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus on 10 Mar—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Imam] As Israeli Arabs, how do you view the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Darawshah] First of all I object to such description. We are not Israeli Arabs. We are Palestinians and are citizens of the State of Israel. We are part of the Arab nation. Therefore, I hope Arab reporters and media would not use such an appellation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Imam] Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said you are very displeased with the Cairo agreement and that you will demand that the Israeli Government cancel it.

[Darawshah] We used the phrase "having reservations." This is the ?(view) of Palestinians inside Israel. The majority of the political forces, including the Arab Democratic Party, welcomed the Oslo agreement as an agreement of principle, hoping that this would be (?followed) by a detailed agreement ensuring Palestinian rights. However, Israel's attempt to obtain big gains from the Palestinian side without offering real concessions made us express reservations over the Cairo agreement, without expressing opposition. We have reservations. [passage omitted]

Delegation Departs

JN1003213694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Damascus—A delegation of the 1948 Palestinians led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah left Damascus this evening after a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic to offer condolences to President Hafiz al-Asad on the loss of the dear nation Staff Major Basil al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Says Visit 'Opening' for Other Visits

TA1103054394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the Israeli Arab delegation's visit to Damascus is an opening

for additional visits to Syria by Israelis. Al-Shar' stressed that the full peace that Syria wants in return for an Israeli full withdrawal is the kind of peace accepted internationally by all states that have formal peace treaties. The Syrian foreign minister made the remarks to Knesset Members Wahhab 'Abd-al-Darawshah and Talib al-Sani' and the other delegation members when they dined with him for the final meal of the Ramadan fast. Our correspondent Qaysar Kabaha, who is with the delegation, reports that the delegation left Damascus last night for Cairo and are due home this morning.

Damascus Denies Claims of Threats to Syrian Jews

PM0803113594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p3

[Repot by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Denies Jews Threatened"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—Syria yesterday denied the claims made by an American Jewish organization alleging that threats were made against Syrian Jews after the al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre on 25 February. It accused Israel of being behind such deceptive lies.

In the first comment on reports about a message received by Syrian Jews from sources claiming to belong to the Syrian Islamic Party for Justice and saying that it is permissible to spill Jewish blood, a Syrian official said that no such name exists at all.

He added that the claims by American Jewish organizations that Jews in Syria were threatened and are facing the danger of revenge for the Hebron massacre, and the crocodile tears shed for the Jews of Syria by Israel and its Jewish organizations, from whom the American Jewish organizations get their orders, are all part of the continuous attempts to confuse and cast doubt on the situation in Syria and on the Syrian position advocating a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

The Syrian official said that Israel knows very well that it would only reap failure and that it would never be able to absolve itself of the crimes it commits in broad daylight against Arab citizens and holy places.

He accused Israel of always trying to force Arab Jews to immigrate to it, and then committing massacres against them to force them to commit massacres. [passage omitted]

Iran

President Gives Sermon, Says Israel Will 'Not Last'

LD1103122394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered Tehran Friday prayer sermons and praised the massive participation of the people in the international Jerusalem Day marches. He described it as a source of pride and honor for Islamic Iran. He referred to the impact of international Jerusalem Day in keeping alive the issue of Palestine which is the most fundamental issue that faces the Islamic world. He said: The holding of ceremonies marking international Jerusalem Day has an important effect on the continuation of the struggle of the people of Palestine. He stressed: Israel definitely will not last and the acceptance of any kind of peace plan with the regime occupying Jerusalem is suicidal.

The president referred to the colonial history of the creation of Israel and said: During World War II, world arrogance realized that Zionists were a threat to the European community and decided to create a base in the Middle East to achieve its inauspicious goals, and that is exactly what it did. Since then the Israeli policy has been to drive out Muslim Palestinians step by step and to usurp their lands. Apart from such actions, Israel has also established security zones that can be used as a weapon at all times.

The president added: The mass murder of the oppressed Muslim Palestinians in cases such as Dayr Yasin and the recent tragic event in the Abraham mosque in Hebron are among the usual practices of the Zionist regime.

The interim Friday prayer leader of Tehran referred to the colonial nature of Israel and said: The Zionist regime cannot resist a second against the struggle of the Muslim nation of Palestine if it decides to set aside its colonial nature. It is for that reason that it has always enjoyed the support of America and Britain so as to maintain their interests in the region.

He added: The establishment of an Arab-Israeli peace does not seem logical as long as the relationship between the usurper Zionist regime and the Palestinian nation is one of the oppressor against the oppressed. The president said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] The logic of the western world for creating Israel is extremely faulty and vulnerable. You see how deceptively they are trying to make themselves look good, but they have come unstuck there. But Israel is so important to them that they are prepared to take this shame on their name to their grave. They are prepared to see all their claims wiped out for the sake of preserving that malevolent, arrogant entity, which is behaving this way.

But, will Israel last? In my opinion, no. It will definitely not last. That foreign body that has entered a living being cannot last long.

In my opinion, ultimately, the way to salvation is Islam. What can do something, keep the people on the scene, preserve this lengthy and hazardous crusade for a long time, is Islam. What one is willing to live for, die for, put up with torture, hunger and homelessness for, is the religious and Islamic spirit which we have experienced in Iran. [end recording]

In the first sermon Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani referred to the role of programs about worship, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan. He said the meaningful presence, the revolutionary and Islamic concept and spirit, and the revolutionary fervor of religious centers, the resistance against conspiracies and the continuation of construction was the reason for the success and strength of the society.

The interim Friday imam of Tehran added: Iran's all-round reconstruction, especially after eight years of holy defense, is the result of the self-improvement of the Muslim nation of Iran during this auspicious and holy period. Because people make up the pillars of society. If those pillars are strong and robust, and believe in religious principles and beliefs, undoubtedly the society will last.

In another part of his sermons the president said: Without the presence of earnest people on the scene to defend the Islamic revolution, the issues of the country, which is under foreign pressure from all sides, could not be advanced. We are in the construction period and with their ploys the enemies intend to dishearten us in that endeavor and bring us to our knees. But our nation, with the alertness which stems from that worship has stood against all those plots and will continue to do so.

He expressed the hope that, like the people of Iran, other Muslim nations of the world will find their way and fight off the conspiracies of world arrogance.

President on Extending 'Hand of Friendship' to Israel

NC1103122794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1120 GMT 11 Mar 94

["Text" of a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani "after the second Friday sermon" in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and peace be upon the prophet and his scion and upon God's pious people. On the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan and on the International Day of Jerusalem, we salute the memory of our late imam, who gave the jihad movement for liberating Palestine fresh impetus through his declaration of this great day.

This year, the heinous crime at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque awakened people, especially the Islamic nation, and their interest in the cause of Jerusalem, Islam's primary cause. Zionism exposed its alien, aggressive face. It was naive for some to extend a hand of friendship to the usurping invaders and forget the movement of jihad, which the mujahidin staged for years and paid with the blood of many virtuous martyrs. Those people left the ranks of jihad and struggle, deluding themselves into thinking that the Israeli leaders would grant them special privileges on the land of Palestine.

The Palestinian issue clearly demonstrates the right of the Muslim Palestinian people to jihad. There is no need for incidents like the one in Hebron for people to realize the intrigues of Zionism and the lies of its leaders and protectors when they talk about peace in the Middle East. We must warn those who deviated from the right path and tell them that they should return to the movement of jihad along with the sons of the Islamic nation and the valiant Palestinian people, consolidate the bonds of Islamic unity, and comply with what Islam and the Koran decided for them. They must be assured that there is no other way to achieve the rights of the persecuted Palestinian people than struggle and steadfastness. The Zionists and their covetous protectors will never stop their aggressive and expansionist spirit without the jihad of the Muslim people, which God promised victory and might. Peace be upon you. There is no help except from God. When comes the help of God and victory, and thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowd, celebrate the praises of the lord, and pray for his forgiveness, for he is oft-returning in grace and mercy. [Koranic verses]

Foreign Ministry Scores UN Human Rights Resolution

NC1103105794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Following the approval of a resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC], our Foreign Ministry issued a statement today in which it strongly condemns the irresponsible act by the UNHRC and says that this resolution stems from the political intentions of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Our Foreign Ministry's statement clarifies that the United States and the other mentors of Zionism who were the ringleaders in pushing the issuance of such a resolution have all remained silent on the massacre of fasting Muslims in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and have even prevented the issuance of a resolution condemning the Zionist regime by the UN Security Council. Therefore, under the current conditions the Islamic Republic of Iran considers this resolution to be a manifestation of the spite of the Western-Zionist circles vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran's independent policies, its defiance of superpower domination, and especially its refusal to assist in imposing humiliation on the Palestinian nation.

It has now been proven to the world that the Western countries who support such resolutions have been hypocritically assisting in the inhuman crimes and flagrant violations of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the heart of Europe for a long time.

The statement also refers to the political and social rights of the minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the fact that penal codes in Iran are based on the judicial system of Islam accepted and respected by more than 1 billion Muslims throughout the world, and emphasizes that the issuance of such resolutions mars the credibility of such forums.

Assembly Speaker Denies Iranians in Islamic Groups Abroad

LD1103113694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Majles, spoke today before the start of Friday prayer sermons in Tehran. He referred to the magnificence of the Islamic revolution in Iran and its influence on world Muslims. He said: By inducig a new mood in Muslims, the Islamic revolution of Iran has brought about a great transformation in the world. He added: By creating the cancerous cell of Israel, the enemies of Islam had intended to obliterate Islam from the face of the earth, in particular from the Middle East region. However, the people of Palestine, Lebanon, and the other Islamic lands, inspired by the lofty aspirations of Iran's Islamic revolution, have made life difficult for their enemies, particularly for the regime occupying Israel. Today we clearly witness the impact of the Islamic revolution on the lifestyle of these people and on the tactics they adopt for their struggles.

The Majles speaker strongly denied allegations made by the western mass media charging that the Islamic Republic of Iran is physically present in the Islamic revolutionary movements of Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, and other Islamic countries. He said: What the western mass media call Iran's intervention is in fact the presence of the Islamic revolutionary spirit of the people of Iran in the hearts and minds of the nations or in other words it is the export of the culture of Iran's Islamic revolution to these countries.

Referring to the recent crime of the Zionist regime, he condemned the silence of international forums, in particular the United Nations and its Human Rights Commission, toward such an atrocity. The Majles speaker then praised the people for their extensive presence in the international Jerusalem Day rallies. He stressed: Today all the pressures exerted by arrogance with the aim of destroying Islam are chiefly directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, our people once

again showed today that to safeguard and defend the values of Islam and the revolution, they intend to continue their struggle and remain steadfast in the face of all problems.

Firebomb Thrown at Syrian Embassy in Tehran

NC1103104294 Paris AFP in English 0944 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 11 (AFP)—A man threw two petrol bombs into the Syrian Embassy courtyard in the Iranian capital on Thursday, but caused no injuries or damage, Syrian diplomats in Tehran said Friday.

The assailant, suspected to be deranged, was arrested and Iranian authorities opened an inquiry into the attack, the diplomats said without giving more details.

Asia, Pacific Ocean: Arena for the West

94LA0099A Tehran SAFF in Persian 21 Jan-19 Feb 94 pp 22-24

[Text] The Pacific Ocean region and Asia, because of their economic and political potential, have always caught the eye of the West, particularly the United States. This region, while being important from a strategic military standpoint, has rich natural resources; arable lands; and an efficient, creative, and active work force. China is one of the most important countries in this region of the world. It is growing at an increasing rate and developing in military and economic areas with astonishing economic dynamism and moving towards becoming another world power. This situation, alongside such important economic centers as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan, has caused the center of economic and strategic gravity in the world to shift to the Pacific Ocean area.

Concerning the importance of this region, 100 years ago, the secretary of state at the time had said: "Even though trade and political affairs are expanding in Europe, it will gradually become less important; on the other hand, the Pacific Ocean will become the arena of major world events in the future." Ronald Reagan, the former U.S. president, also said in 1984 in connection with the extraordinary importance of Asia and the Pacific Ocean region: "I look at the Pacific Ocean as the future of the world."

Because of the above-mentioned factors, the attention of the West and the United States has been focused on Asia and the Pacific Ocean more than ever before. For this reason, in 1989, a treaty called the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC], was signed between the United States, Europe, and the economically powerful countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean region and now has 17 members.

In the last meeting of this economic treaty, which was held in Azar [22 November-21 December] this year in Seattle, in the United States, it became clear that this region has continued to receive the attention of the West, and the leaders of those countries hope to expand their presence in that region. In this connection, U.S. President Bill Clinton stated in that meeting that the Asia and Pacific Ocean region will have a central role in U.S. foreign policy. He also pointed out that the Asia and Pacific Ocean region will be the most important political, economic, and military pole in the world.

In the opinion of political experts, the above statements show that the United States is determined to pursue an active diplomacy in that region.

In order to attract the attention of Chinese officials, prior to the meeting with the government officials of that country, the U.S. President ordered the sale to China of a very advanced super computer.

U.S. Reasons for Presence in Asia

A) The U.S. economy, like the economies of European countries, is facing a great crisis. Economic experts have projected that U.S. economic growth this year and next will decrease by 2.7 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively, and hence result in a wave of bankruptcy for many U.S. companies. On the other hand, the Pacific Ocean region, with a population of 2 billion people, has the most rapid economic growth in the world and is considered a great market for American and European products. Hence, the increase in the U.S. economic and commercial presence in the region can change the market in that country and attract the work force in various economic sectors of the United States.

B) With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the end of the cold war, and the world moving toward a multipolar system, as the world military superpower and one of the important economic centers of the world, the United States is trying to stop the establishment of such world powers as the former Soviet Union, so that, so it reasons, it will become the only world power. Hence, under the circumstances of countries such as Japan, China, and Russia moving toward becoming world powers, in which case the Asia and Pacific Ocean region will become the center of gravity for world powers, in order to prevent the transfer of the center of power from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, the United States is making an effort to shape the security and economic structure of the region before these countries become pivotal centers.

C) Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and especially the removal of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of West and East Germany, Europe is moving towards unification and becoming a powerful, united complex. Hence, the success of the Maastricht Treaty in the future will lead the Europeans towards a closed economic complex day by day, in which case, an end will be put to the presence of the United States. Under such circumstances, the most favorable position for the United States is to transfer its center of trade from Europe to Asia and the Pacific Ocean region. Another benefit of such a policy is that it will allow U.S. leaders

to increase pressure on the European Community several times through the APEC treaty and in this way achieve its wishes in the GATT (tariff and trade agreement), which was ratified last month by the representatives of more than 100 countries.

Special Attention of the United States to China

China, as one of the powerful countries in Asia and the Pacific Ocean, is of special importance. Hence, the United States, alongside its efforts to make its presence felt in the region, pays special attention to the most populated country in the world and in its future political and economic relations will allocate a special position for China.

In the opinion of political analysts, after the end of the cold war, the relations between the United States and China entered a new phase, which, in contrast to the past, has become more important at the international level. Previously, the Chinese tried to take advantage of the existing rivalry between the United States and the former Soviet Union and by establishing positive equilibrium between Washington and Moscow obtain maximum concessions from both sides. But after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the final failure of international communism, as the leaders of new socialism, the Chinese, by continuing the process of reforms that they had started in 1976 after the death of Mao, established new relations with the United States and other Western countries.

Economically, the Chinese combined socialist ideology with the free-market economic system, which they call a socialist economic system based on the open market. Even though the nature of such a system is not clear to U.S. officials, because China has veto power in the UN Security Council, in order to have their proposed resolutions, which are mostly to cover up their meddling policies, ratified in the Security Council, the United States needs the vote of the Chinese Government in this council.

On the other hand, the economic growth of China in recent years has been significant, and this has been important for Western governments, especially the United States, that in the early years of the 1990's have faced economic recession. For this reason, Americans try to temporarily forget the issue of human rights, which in the past four years has been the main center of anti-Chinese propaganda for the Americans, in order to prepare the grounds for expanding relations. To this end, the U.S. president, a little before meeting with the government officials of that country, in order to appeal to Chinese officials, issued instructions to sell a very advanced super computer to China.

For the Chinese, who hoped to be a center of power in East Asia after the end of the cold war, access to advanced technology and attracting investments by large Western companies are important. For this reason, the Beijing government, on the one hand, tries to show itself as the defender of Third World countries in its relations with them and, on the other hand, due to the need for Western technology and investments by multinational companies in China, weighs political considerations in relation with these countries and even in some instances gives concessions. For example, the Chinese positive votes for the proposed U.S. resolution concerning Somalia, Iraq, Bosnia, Haiti, and the like, are precisely evaluated in the framework of such an objective.

U.S. Obstacles and Problems

Even though all existing evidence and signs indicate the completion of American multilateral political and economic policies in the region in question, attention to hindering factors, which exist in this area, does not provide a clear perspective for the economic and political experts of the West. The most important of these factors are:

A) While the grounds for full cooperation and coordination between Beijing and Washington have been completely prepared, a sort of new rivalry is forming between the two countries. As one of the most powerful countries in Asia, China, even though it needs the West and the United States in numerous areas, is not prepared to become an instrument for the United States to become the sole world power with regard to its economic needs and at the same time considers itself the economic, political, and military rival of the United States.

B) The significant economic growth of the countries in the region has freed them from dependence on Western countries. In fact, the interest of those countries in more economic development in cooperation with the United States and Europe is evaluated. Hence, as soon as countries such as China and Japan face the oppressive actions of the United States, they are capable of returning to cold political relations.

C) The growth of nationalism and political development in the countries in the region will also confront the United States with problems in continuing its presence and the interference by Washington in the internal affairs of those countries. Even though countries located in Asia and the Pacific Ocean region have achieved significant economic advancement, this situation has not hindered change in the view of the Americans as regards the people of Eastern countries being inferior, and they continue to look down on the people of the East.

D) America's failure to understand the cultural and social issues of the countries in the region is another problem facing the United States in expanding its influence in the Pacific Ocean region.

Even though countries such as Japan and China began to move toward corruption and debauchery years ago and now face many problems in the area of the moral decline of their youth, the people of these countries believe in a set of cultural and traditional principles, and this has created a duality regarding the presence of U.S. forces, which makes the continuation of their establishment in the region problematic.